

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Readings: 1Thes 5:1-11 and Lk 16:19-31

The rich man and Lazarus: a parable which must be well “read”. A rich man, merely, not a wicked man and then Lazarus (Lazarus means “help from God”), who is simply there, asking nothing. Between these two yawns an unbridgeable gap, apparently. A chasm of ignorance, egoism, self-sufficiency has opened around the one who enjoys himself, his slumbering conscience untouched by poverty’s reproach. The one who lives so well must take care, death can be upsetting. Spiritual stiffness lies in wait for him, who is unable to accept the call to change his ways.

So we can understand the warning of Jesus, “Alas for the rich! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for you to enter the Kingdom of God.” Sometimes there is a notice on the residences of the well-to-do: “NO BEGGARS, NO PEDDLARS”. What if the prohibition is turned turtle on the threshold of heaven? “NO RICH”; this is the way St. Luke seems to represent lasting happiness.

Then can the rich not be saved? Happily, they can, and thanks to the poor. Here the poor are the petitioners of the rich, up above it will be the rich who petition the poor to remember the friendship they had for them, how they had shared their wealth with them, how they had benefited them. “In the Church”, Bossuet remarked, “the rich are strangers. It is the poor they serve who grant them citizenship.”

Today more than ever, when so many like Lazarus lie at our doors, in our so-called affluent societies; so many also further away, in the Third World lands, who wait for something more from us than magnificent reports and exploitation. Do we know how to recognize these present-day replicas of Lazarus?

Next Weekend, Feb. 15-21: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

All Masses this week (Tuesday and Thursday) will be offered for the Repose of the Souls of the followings:

- ✠ Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhrt*
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)*
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will*
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will*
- ✠ Deceased of the Bentz & Reynolds Families by Carolee Bentz*
- ✠ Anna Marie McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Children*
- ✠ Deceased of the Khourey & Howard Families by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey*
- ✠ Robert Rose by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt*
- ✠ Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike*
- ✠ Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike*
- ✠ Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents), Nadim (brother) & Mona (sister) by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ✠ Deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ✠ Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley by Thomasina Geimer*
- ✠ Robert Hunter, Jr. & Robert Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer*
- ✠ Leona M. Albaugh (on her Birthday February 23) by her son Denny Albaugh*
- ✠ Beloved grandparents Tom & Sadie John & David & Tamamie Joseph by Ron & Susan Burns*
- ✠ Beloved parents John T. & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan Burns*
- ✠ Deceased of the Strawn Family by Rex & Rita Strawn*
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas & Dellget Families by Rex & Rita Strawn*
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family*
- ✠ Deceased of the Schlog & Saseen Families by Fran Saseen and sons*
- ✠ Helen Fielding and Augie Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich*
- ✠ George & Mary Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich*
- ✠ Mike O’Kane by Joe & Nikki Popovich*
- ✠ Deceased of the Fadoul & Duffy Families by Earl & Linda Duffy*
- ✠ Tessa Joseph by her mother Stephanie Joseph*

- † Gerard Joseph by his wife Stephanie Joseph
 † Deceased members of the Shutler Family by Janet Shutler
 † Deceased members of the Nolte Family by Janet Shutler
 † Deceased members of the Daniel & DiFabrizio Families by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio
 † Thomas A. & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
 † Barkett & Sadie Coury (parents) by Lucille Coury Gibbons and Family
 † Infant George, Vharles, Louis, Eva Coury Moffat by Lucille Coury Gibbons & Family
 † Martha Ruggiero, Helen Orosz & Ann Otterbeck by Lucille Coury Gibbons & Family
 † Michael Josephs by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias
 † Freda Josephs by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias
 † Deceased members of the Josephs and tobias Families by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias
 † William Josephs by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias
 † William & Amelia Fitzgerald by Dick & Rosemary Coury
 † Marianna Khoury and Family by Dick & Rosemary Coury
 † Tim Shia, Ginny & Martha by the Family
 † Thomas Jochum by the Family
 † Shirley Elias Nickerson, Mary, Rose, Jean, Helen, Margaret and Madeline Elias by their loving Family
 † Shirley Elias Nickerson, Donald A. Nickerson Sr., Nicholas & Amelia Elias, Albert & Wanda Nickerson by their loving Families
 † Deceased of the Henning & Bott Families by Don & Roberta Henning
 † Deceased of the Bentz, Fadoul, Hancher, Sengewalt and Werner Families by Millet & Susie Fadoul
 † Elaine & Jay Cybulski, Tom George, Sharlet Purpura, Annette Tysk, Annette Aprea, Marthann Rinehart, Paul Doyle by Millet & Susie Fadoul
 † Steve & Theresa Sofka by Mike & Judy Sofka
 † Mary Jean and Tim Stanton by Mike & Judy Sofka
 † Robert Baranawski by Mike & Judy Sofka
 † Violet Machel by Mike & Judy Sofka
 † Julian & Anna Marie McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Children
 † Lesle Ann & Jerbear McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Family
 † Beloved Aunts & uncles: Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sr. Mary Thomasina John & Ronald & Julia Tappe by Ron & Susan Burns
 † Michael Joseph by Vickie Joseph
 † Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
 † Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph
 † Herman E. Conti Jr, Tony Matesic, Rose Ann & Angelo Polsinelli by Rosalie Conti
 † Virginia & Anton Matesic Joe & Ana Palsinelli, Gene & Dorothy Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
 † Deceased of the Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
 † Deceased of the Weisner, Bishop & Schmeichel Families by Jean & George Weisner
 † Matt & Margaret Simonetti by Richard & Mary Ryncarz
 † Thomas & Stella Ryncarz by Richard & Mary Ryncarz
 † Joseph & Julie Strauss by Richard & Mary Ryncarz
 † Ray & Dolores Palotay by the Palotay Family
 † Jerrie Palotay Williams by the Palotay Family
 † Cathy Sharp Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
 † Beloved Deceased Members of the Bine and Gaudio Families by Shirley Bine
 † Lottie Elwartoski by Richard Elwartoski
 † Walter Elwartoski by Richard Elwartoski
 † Deceased of the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Bill & Carol Dougherty

Next Weekend, Feb. 22-23: Entrance to Great Lent

Saturday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Judith A. Wolfe (Anniversary) by Mary Stees and Libby Magnone
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- ✠ Lucille Gibbons by the Women Society OLOL
- ✠ Special Intentions of all the Benefactors of the church

Great Lent Starts with Ash Monday & Wednesday

Remember, You Are Dust and Will Return to Dust

Dust and ashes are signature symbols of Lent, the 40-day liturgical season of prayer, reflection and discipline intended to open us more fully to God's redeeming and healing presence.

On Ash Monday -the first day of Lent in the Maronite Catholic Church- blessed ashes are spread on our foreheads in the form of a cross -signifying the penitential nature of Lent. Those ashes, which come from the burning of palm branches used on the previous Passion Sunday, are spread by the priest as he says the somber words of Genesis 3:19, "**Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return,**" or the clear admonition of Mark 1:15, "**Turn from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.**"

Ashes denote traditional Lenten goals that we are encouraged to strive for in our relationship with God and with others -for repentance and sorrow for sin and spiritual sloth; for humility in the face of God's greatness; for awareness of our human weakness, fragility and mortality: for "good grief" and appropriate mourning for all the inevitable losses in our lives. To show that he was at the end of his rope and could do nothing else but throw himself on the mercy of God, Job sat on the *ash heap* and spread *ashes* over his head (Job 42:6; 30:19). The psalmist even declares, "*I eat ashes like bread . . .*" (Psalm 102:10). Jesus cited the need "**to repent in sackcloth and ashes**" (Mt. 11:21).

We may be tempted to shy away from the Lenten symbolism of dust and ashes because it seems too negative. Instead, we would be wise to open our minds and hearts to what the Church offers us each year as a healthy dose of realism about God and God's mercy, and about ourselves and human life.

Ash Monday & Wednesday, Feb. 24 & 26

On Ash Monday, we will have two Masses and blessing with Ashes at 12:05 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. Ashes will also be distributed during the two Masses on Ash Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. for those who missed it on Monday.

Ash Monday, February 24:

12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

Ash Wednesday, February 26:

12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

Stations of the Cross starts on Friday, February 28th

The **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place at our Church every Friday during **Great Lent Season, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass**

The "Stations of the Cross" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until his death and burial on Mount Calvary.

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Second station: Jesus carries his cross.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his afflicted mother.
 Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross.
 Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
 Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.
 Eighth Station: The daughters of Jerusalem weep over Jesus.
 Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.
 Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.
 Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross.
 Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross.
 Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross.
 Fourteenth Station: Jesus is buried in the tomb.

Calendar of Parish Events

St. Maron Dinner	<i>Preparation Days: --Wednesday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m.: making Mamool --Thursday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m.: making kibbee Sunday, March 8, 2020</i>
Bake Sale	<i>Cooking dates: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 20, 21 and 22nd Pick up orders: Wednesday, April 22nd (afternoon) and Thu, 23rd.</i>
Rummage Sale	<i>Friday-Saturday June 5-6, 2020 Please start saving your merchandise for us. More information at a later date. No clothing will be accepted in 2020.</i>
Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan)	<i>Saturday, August 8th from noon to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, August 9th from 10:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.</i>

2020 Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones to decorate the church and the tomb of Christ are sponsored by the following generous parishioners:

🌸🌸🌸🌸 A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald of Florida

🌸 Tom & Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris

🌸 George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen and Family

🌸 Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike

🌸 Frances & Joseph Linton by their sons Steve & Mike

🌸 Deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton

🌸 Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents), Nadim (brother) and Mona (sister) by Steve & Mike Linton

🌸 Deceased members of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos

🌸 Deceased members of the Bine and Gaudio Families by Shirley Bine

🌸 Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louise H. Khourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

🌸 Deceased of the Saseen and Schlog Families by Fran Saseen

🌸 Danny & Millie Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller

🌸 In honor of the Frenn Family

🌸 In honor of Janet Shutler

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

February 16: Dave Sengewalt

February 17: Rebecca DiFabrizio

February 21: Louie Khourey

February 27: MaryAnn Carl

March 2: Ava Murad
 March 4: Jeff Sengewalt
 March 5: Philip Carl
 March 6: Kristen McLaughlin
 March 10: Liam George
 March 15: Shelby Imer

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Bill Dougherty, Al Depto, Don Henning, Joe Roxby, Dolores Joseph, Jeff Fahey and his daughter Amanda, Elia Frenn, Nick Bedway, Shirley & Jim George, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Phil Geimer, Justin Frenn, John Shiben

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,113.50	Sunday Collection
55.00	Candles
290.00	St. Maron Dinner
359.00	Easter Flowers
60.00	Parking
25.00	Utilities
30.00	Donation to Poor Families
\$1,932.50	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy & Mike Linton

What's New

Condolences: Lucille Coury-Gibbons

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Gibbons Family on the loss of their beloved Lucille who passed away in Wheeling. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Saturday, **February 15**. The choir of the church served the funeral Mass and the Women's Society served the Mercy Meal at the Cedar Hall after the interment. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

Condolences: Blanche Wakim

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the **Wakim** Family on the loss of their beloved **Blanche** who passed away in Wheeling. Msgr. Bakhos concelebrated the Funeral Mass at St. Michael Church on **Friday, February 14**. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

Missing

Two clear large crystal cut glass bowls and a case filled with 50 or more Matchbox cars from the old Basement Hall. Please call or return with any information regarding these items to Linda (304) 242-6853.

Bring Now Your Items to Our Rummage Sale

Dear parishioners and friends,

Please bring your items with you to the church every time you come to daily or weekend Mass. It means from now until the date of the rummage sale in June, fill your trunk with the items you want to donate to our rummage sale and ask Msgr. Bakhos or Mike Linton to open the door of the old basement for you. Bring

everything except clothing and tires. You can call us also at 304-233-1688 to wait for you. We appreciate your donation. Thanks.

Around Us

Lenten Fish Fry

Where: Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church

When: February 28 through April 3, 2020- 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Menu: Fresh, Hand-Breaded Coleman's Fish, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Desserts

Infant of Prague Novena

Where: Our Lady of Peace Church

When: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. starting February 30, 2020



Story

Sitting behind a long line of cars on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I could not believe what was happening. There was a roadblock just a couple miles ahead of me, which meant I had come within five minutes of completely missing the traffic jam. “So much for getting an early start,” I thought, turning off my car engine.

I was the guest speaker for “Theology on Tap—NYC,” an evening seminar for young adults in New York City. Although I knew that I only needed two hours to get from my home in Philadelphia to New York, I had left five hours early to ensure arriving in plenty of time.

Getting stuck in traffic was more frustrating than worrisome at that point. I still have another four hours, I thought to myself. “It shouldn’t be a problem,” I said to my friend Jim, who was driving with me to the seminar. But as time moved forward and traffic did not, I became concerned. I called the conference planners every hour to let them know of my situation.

When 5 p.m. arrived and there was still no sign of movement, making it in time for the scheduled 7 p.m. talk was beginning to look impossible. If traffic did not start moving within minutes, I would have to put in the call to cancel the talk. I felt totally helpless. There was nothing I could do, except

“We need to pray,” I said, It was our only hope. We immediately began praying the Rosary. Within one minute after our final “amen” we saw a car going the opposite direction on the shoulder of the road right next to us. It is illegal to drive on the shoulder, even if you are going in the same direction as the rest of traffic, let alone in the opposite direction. But several cars started turning around the tightly cramped highway and heading down the shoulder in the opposite direction.

“Something’s going on,” I said to Jim.

Suddenly, for the first time a possible way out had presented itself. I immediately turned the car around and headed down the same shoulder.

Just a hundred yards behind us was a makeshift exit the police had set up through someone’s back yard. Using back roads we found our way back onto the Turnpike and sped our way up to New York. We made it to the conference with fifteen minutes to spare.

I do not know whether our prayer had started the chain of events that led to this traffic jam escape, but it showed me yet again the power of Gods grace. When situations look hopeless, we are never helpless.

A Time to Laugh (448)

Prayer Gets Some Help

Many marvelous stories can be used to illustrate the various facets of prayer. In particular I like the story that English statesman William Gladstone told that illustrates prayer coupled with a sort of persistent (if also perverse) action. It seems Gladstone knew of a little girl in his neighborhood who believed strongly in the efficacy of prayer. Her current concern was a trap that her brother had made to catch birds. Being a bird lover, she prayed that God would frustrate her brother's designs and that he would be unsuccessful in his plan. She had shared this resolution with Gladstone and told him how hard she was praying.

One day, upon encountering her, Gladstone observed a particular radiance to her countenance. He said to her, "Julia, you look so pleased. Are you still confident your prayers will be answered?"

Julia smiled a knowing smile and retorted, "I know for sure that my prayers will be answered. Yesterday I kicked my brother's trap to pieces."

Hit Home Runs - Then Talk

The former chaplain of the Boston Red Sox talked with a young player who was constantly quoting Scripture. He told the young man, "Son, don't quote Scripture until you hit home runs."

Sometimes we talk too much and produce too little.

Wrong Drink

There's this guy in a restaurant just looking at his drink. He stays like that for a half hour. Then this big troublemaking truck driver walks into the restaurant as if he owns the place, steps over to the man, grabs his glass, and immediately drinks it all down.

The poor man starts crying. The truck driver is mean, but he never intended to make a grown man cry. He says, "Come on man, I was just funnin' with ya. Tell ya what: I'll buy ya another drink. But ya gotta stop that cryin'."

"No, it's not the drink," the man replied. "This is the worst day of my life. Nothing has gone right. First, I sleep in and get to work late, so my boss fires me. I leave the building, and someone has just stolen my car. The police say they can do nothing. I get a cab to return home, and when I leave it, I remember I left my wallet with my credit cards on the seat. When I get home my wife is driving away in our other car with all of her luggage on top. So, I walk down here to this restaurant to end all this suffering. And then you show up and gulp down my entire drink. And all the poison I had was in that one glass!"

Adversity Follows

Stopped by a policeman for driving without a taillight, a driver became quite distressed.

"Don't take it so hard," consoled the officer, "it's a minor offense."

"That's not the point," replied the troubled driver. "What worries me is, what's happened to my wife and my trailer?"