

Parish Bulletin

September 2010



"The Just Man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow"

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From the Desk of Father Ghattas:

September is the month that the weather becomes a little cooler. It is helpful to do our activities with more energy than usual. We are expecting more people to join us in prayers and activities. Our children will return to being taught Catechism and Arabic in Sunday school. We are thankful for the members who are volunteering to have our children have a good education, learning their heritage. Also we do not forget those who spent their energy, time and money in order to give us a comfortable place. Also we start to focus on the Festival that puts the whole Church in work. It is an opportunity to present ourselves as people who have a mission in Arizona. It also is a fundraiser for the Church, which allows us to continue running a house of prayer open to all. September is also the month of Labor Day. We remember Jesus who labored with Saint Joseph. Recently the Church has honored a Labor Brother Blessed Stephan, from the Lebanese order. However this Country became great through the laboring hand of millions of the people. There is another date that the Americans never forgot: September 11, 2001. It was a heinous act of terror that was justified according to their belief that God gave an order to abolish the twin towers of New York. The result was over three thousand people were killed and terror inside of America. Even though the condition is sad, there is a hope that was planted inside the hearts of the faithful. The Christians celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross; a sign of victory over terror, death and hatred. As John Paul II reminds us, the evil will never rise over the feet of the Cross. He was repeating the words of Jesus after the Resurrection: "do not be afraid." As an Eastern Church, we join the Catholic Church to pray for the Synod of the Bishops in Rome for the Eastern Churches in Middle East. We ask the Lord with the prayers of Mary to continue our journey with hope and faith as witnesses of the Love of God through our acts.

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM, Sundays 11:00 AM

- **Sunday September 5th** Special Intention
 - **Wednesday September 8th** Birth of Mary
 - **Saturday September 11th** Special Intention
- **Sunday September 12th** President Bachir Gemayel; Blessing of Holy Cross and Consecration Holy Water
 - **Saturday September 18th**
- **Sunday September 19th** First Sunday of Holy Cross; Special Intention
 - **Saturday September 25th** For Peace
- **Sunday September 26th** Second Sunday of the Holy Cross

Activities:

- **Picnic:** We will be having our annual picnic and Divine Liturgy at Chaparral Park on **Sunday October 3rd**
- **Parish Council:** There will be a Parish Council meeting on **Tuesday September 7th at 7 PM**
- **Sunday September 12, will be Chicken Sandwiches will be after the Divine Liturgy**
- **Festival:** Brothers and Sisters, the our 8th annual Festival is fast approaching. On November 5, 6 and 7 we will need both your monetary and voluntary support in order to ensure its success. We need the help of the youth to participate in Folk Dancing and others to help with preparation of food.
- **Sunday School:** We will be having school on **Sunday September 12th AND Sunday September 26th** so anyone who still needs to register do so as soon as possible
- **Choir:** Because the summer is over, we are beginning to start our church activities in full swing. If anyone 7 years of age or older is interested in joining the Youth Choir, they first must pass a voice test then be committed to choir practices. Please contact the Church or Marlene Boulos, the director, at (602) 434-9177

<u>NAME (Arabic)</u>	<u>Name (English)</u>	<u>Date of Reading</u>
George J Elters	Grace Matta	Sunday September 5
Maggie Eid	Myrna Goreyeb	Sunday September 12
Sola Elters	Yara Boulos	Sunday September 19
Rania Karam	Janice Ashkar	Sunday September 26
George Elters	Alex Malkoun	Sunday October 3
Andre Ashkar	Kristiana Faddoul	Sunday October 10
Marie Rose Faddoul	Chris Zlaket	Sunday October 17

Simon the Stylite September 1

Simon is the most famous of the stylites or saints who spent their days seated on high platforms or pillars. The immense monastery, which had been built around his pillar, still exists in the environs of Aleppo. The celebrated historian Theodoret, who was a contemporary of Simon, had personally met him and wrote about his life. Simon was born near Antioch in the year 392. While still a young man, he gave himself over to the service of God in the desert. When he later sought solitude away from the crowds that pressed around him, he established himself on a pillar which grew higher and higher above the crowds. He thus lived between heaven and earth for about forty years, preaching and exhorting the crowds from high upon the pillar. Numerous individuals who came to him were converted by his preaching. He died in the year 459. Devotion to Saint Simon spread throughout Syria and Lebanon. The monastery named after him and the sight of his pillar were the objects of pilgrimages throughout the East. May the prayers of St. Simon the Stylite be with us. Amen.

Mammas September 2nd

Mammas were born of Christian parents; his mother brought him into the world while in prison for her faith in Christ. After his mother's death, another Christian woman took care of him. He was a shepherd and was loved by all the peasants for his good humor. He was arrested because he was a Christian and the judge demanded that he burn incense to idols, but Mammas refused. After undergoing severe torture he was beheaded in the year 279 at the age of 15. Many miracles are attributed to him and one of the more ancient churches of Mount Lebanon is dedicated to him: the Church of Saint Mammas at Ehden, dating from the year 748. May his prayer be with us. Amen.

St Sharbel Bishop of Edessa the Martyr and his sister Barabia September 5th

He was a Pagan Priest when St. Barsima the bishop of the city proclaimed the Gospel. He converted with his sister Barabia. The Pagans got angry and accused him to the governor who put him in prison. He declared with courage his faith. They persecuted him and finally they crucified him. With him they beheaded his sister Barabia in 121 A.D.. St. Sharbel Makhoul took his name when he entered the Lebanese Order.

Birth Of The Virgin September 8th

A tradition, which comes from the apocryphal gospels, tells us that the parents of the Virgin Mary were childless. When their prayer was heard, and Mary was born, her parents brought her up to the Temple

where she passed her days up to the time when she was engaged to Joseph. Today the Church honors Mary, who is blessed among women, and considers this day as the beginning of our salvation in her Son, Jesus Christ. The name, "Mary", comes from Aramaic and signifies either "the Elevated One" or "Queen of the Sea." May the prayers of the Virgin, our Queen, protect us. Amen.

Ruhana (Cyriacus) September 29th

Ruhana is the Syriac name for Saint Cyriacus who was called "the spiritual one" - in Syriac, Ruhanan. He was born at Corinth in the year 446 and became a monk in Palestine under the direction of Saint Euthymus. He became the superior of his monastery and was a model for all because of his piety, wisdom and exhortations. He died at the age of 107. Certain Maronite calendars refer to him as Ruhana, "the singer". Many churches and monasteries in Lebanon are dedicated to him. May his prayers be with us. Amen.

The 100 years of the Birth of Mother Teresa of Calcutta 1910-2010

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the future Mother Teresa, was born on 26 August 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian heritage. Her father, a well-respected local businessman, died when she was eight years old, leaving her mother, a devoutly religious woman, to open an embroidery and cloth business to support the family. After spending her adolescence deeply involved in parish activities, Agnes left home in September 1928, for the Loreto Convent in Rathfarnham (Dublin), Ireland, where she was admitted as a postulant on October 12 and received the name of Teresa, after her patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux. Agnes was sent by the Loreto order to India and arrived in Calcutta on 6 January 1929. Upon her arrival, she joined the Loreto novitiate in Darjeeling. She made her final profession as a Loreto nun on 24 May 1937, and hereafter was called Mother Teresa. While living in Calcutta during the 1930s and '40s, she taught in St. Mary's Bengali Medium School. On 10 September 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received what she termed the "call within a call," which was to give rise to the Missionaries of Charity family of Sisters, Brothers, Fathers, and Co-Workers. The content of this inspiration is revealed in the aim and mission she would give to her new institute: "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor." On October 7, 1950, the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially erected as a religious institute for the Archdiocese of Calcutta. Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, Mother Teresa expanded the work of the Missionaries of Charity both within Calcutta and throughout India. On 1 February 1965, Pope Paul VI granted the Decree of Praise to the Congregation, raising it to pontifical right. The first foundation outside India opened in Cocorote, Venezuela, in 1965. The Society expanded to Europe (the Tor Fiscale suburb of Rome) and Africa (Tabora, Tanzania) in 1968. From the late 1960s until 1980, the Missionaries of Charity expanded both in their reach across the globe and in their number of members. Mother Teresa opened houses in Australia, the Middle East, and North America, and the first novitiate outside Calcutta in London. In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. By that same year there were 158 Missionaries of Charity foundations. The Missionaries of Charity reached Communist countries in 1979 with a house in Zagreb, Croatia, and in 1980 with a house in East Berlin, and continued to expand through the 1980s and 1990s with houses in almost all Communist nations, including 15 foundations in the former Soviet Union. Despite repeated efforts, however, Mother Teresa was never able to open a foundation in China. Mother Teresa spoke at the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly in October 1985. On Christmas Eve of that year, Mother Teresa opened "Gift of Love" in New York, her first house for AIDS patients. In the coming years, this home would be followed by others, in the United States and elsewhere, devoted specifically for those with AIDS. From the late 1980s through the 1990s, despite increasing health problems, Mother Teresa travelled across the world for the profession of novices, opening of new houses, and service to the poor and disaster-stricken. New communities were founded in South Africa,

Albania, Cuba, and war-torn Iraq. By 1997, the Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members, and were established in almost 600 foundations in 123 countries of the world. After a summer of travelling to Rome, New York, and Washington, in a weak state of health, Mother Teresa returned to Calcutta in July 1997. At 9:30 PM, on 5 September, Mother Teresa died at the Motherhouse. Her body was transferred to St Thomas's Church, next to the Loreto convent where she had first arrived nearly 69 years earlier. Hundreds of thousands of people from all classes and all religions, from India and abroad, paid their respects. She received a state funeral on 13 September, her body being taken in procession - on a gun carriage that had also borne the bodies of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru - through the streets of Calcutta. Presidents, prime ministers, queens, and special envoys were present on behalf of countries from all over the world.

The Greatness of the Cross-

“May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ? Through it, the world has been crucified to and I to the world”.

Many people would say:”You Christians are proud of some things that are shameful to the world. A tool of execution would be an icon of triumph. This is a scandal because the cross is sign of curse. More than that how would you exalt a man who died on it?”

How can I explain the reality to those who are refusing salvation through Christ himself? The cross is a sign of hope for those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus. The death of Jesus is a reality because of the historical evidences proving that Jesus was executed at the time of the Roman Procurer Pontius Pilate.

Refusing the cross is refusing the redemptive death of Jesus. He died to save us. The whole Church honors the cross of Jesus Christ. He became the icon of the Son of God who died on it; by which he conquered death, Satan and the world.

Example: when the first American walked on the moon and returned back from the space. The astronomer’s clothes became a sign of a great achievement that America has achieved. Whenever they see the picture of the achievement they remember the whole story. Similarly, the Cross representing the Lord Jesus who overcame death on it, became a banner of triumph over death, sin and Satan.

The enemies of Jesus welcomed it as the perfect way to put him down, and more than that this death generates the curse of the Law. According to John, Jesus was so excited for the coming of the hour of his glory . He considered himself similar to the grain of wheat that would die to give life. His death is the beginning of a new life on earth. The only place on earth, people come to honor the empty tomb. Without the empty tomb, there is no place for the exaltation of the holy cross. Also the cross is the real Tree of life that has the fruits of salvation. More than that, between heaven and earth there was chasm that was separating them. The cross became a bridge connecting them and the inhabitants of the earth could cross it through the new bridge. Finally, the sign of the Son of Man became the Banner of the Church that is the head of our processions and our ceremonies. It is always the first that walks for victory.

Fr. Ghattas Khoury

Two Prayers

There are some who place confidence in themselves
While looking down on everyone else
To them Jesus told this parable
But if you are proud it may be unbearable.
Two men went up to the temple to pray
One a tax collector and the other a Pharisee.
The Pharisee prayed to himself in this way
As he stood proudly in the temple that day
"I thank you God that I am not like other men -
robbers, evil doers, adulterers - Amen!
Nor am I like this tax collector the freak.
I give my tithe and fast twice a week.
But the tax collector stood a distance away.
He would not look up to heaven to pray
But beat his breast saying in humility
"God, I'm a sinner have mercy on me."
I tell you that this man, rather than the other
Went home justified, and not his brother
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
For their pride causes them to stumble
And he who is humble will be raised
The proud put down and the humble praised.



واحد بيسمع الفرض
قدام الناس تيشوفوا العرض
لهيئة عندو شوفة حال
وبيسمع ممن شو بينقال

عا نتقي بدو يقول لا الله
خالق ناس حيا الله
انت ساكت ما بتعرف
خليني قل لك كيف عامهك
انت صرت لي مديون
ما سمعت عم صليلك
انا غير شكل عن القوم
الاؤوابش السراقين
ولا من الخطفة الفاسقين
ولا مثل ها العشار الكذاب
مرتتين نتقشف بالصوم
وبعشر كل المدخول
وانا مخلصك عاطول

والتاني مشلط عشار
راسو للارض من العار
عيني ما بتعلى ل فوق
مستحي ضربو الخجل
للمغفرة بالقلب عندو شوق
بتحسر عا ضياع الايام
قضاها لا صلى ولا صام
وعا البلص والحرام
ارحمني انا الخاطي
طالب منك المغفره
وحدك انت العاطي

منعرف من يلي صار
لشايف حالو بالهيكل
رجع وعا البيت فاضي
عكس العشار الخاطي
رجع عابيتو ربو راضي
ونال المغفرة والتوبي

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