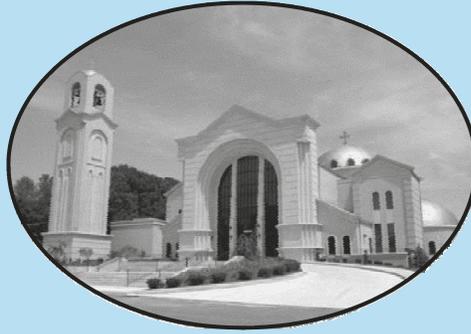


AL-NOUR

The Light of Christ

February 17, 2013

Issue 356



النور

FATHER GEORGE H. SHALHOUB
248-374-0591

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THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX BASILICA OF ST. MARY

▪ 18100 Merriman Road ▪ Livonia, Michigan 48152 ▪ www.saintmarylivonia.com ▪ Office: (734)-422-0010 ▪

Sunday Services
Confession: 8:30AM
Matins: 9:00AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00AM

St. Mary's Cultural
and Banquet Center
(734) 421-9220

ودعي التلاميذ مسيحيين في انطاكية أولاً

“And the disciples were first called
Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26

Daily Confession by Appointment - Call the Church Office

February 17, 2013



Valentine's Day – Engaging the Soul

By: Fr. George Shalhoub



As our nation gears up to celebrate the feast of love, Valentine's Day, it brings with it the measures of marketing and the things that most of us have come to believe will make the wrong right and the right better. Valentine's Day will be celebrated by the exchanging of love with flowers, candy, dinner or surprise trips. It has become one more thing to do because others are doing it. And many find it is easier to purchase something than act.

Love can only flow from the foundation of your soul. And if it flows from your soul, it becomes energy. Therefore, love must be taught at home, not only by words, but by example, not only by expressions, but by value. Love must be taught, not only with words, but with deeds. It must be facilitated through expression. We all want to fall in love, not knowing the cost, but yet, all of us are filled with potential and capacity to love unconditionally.

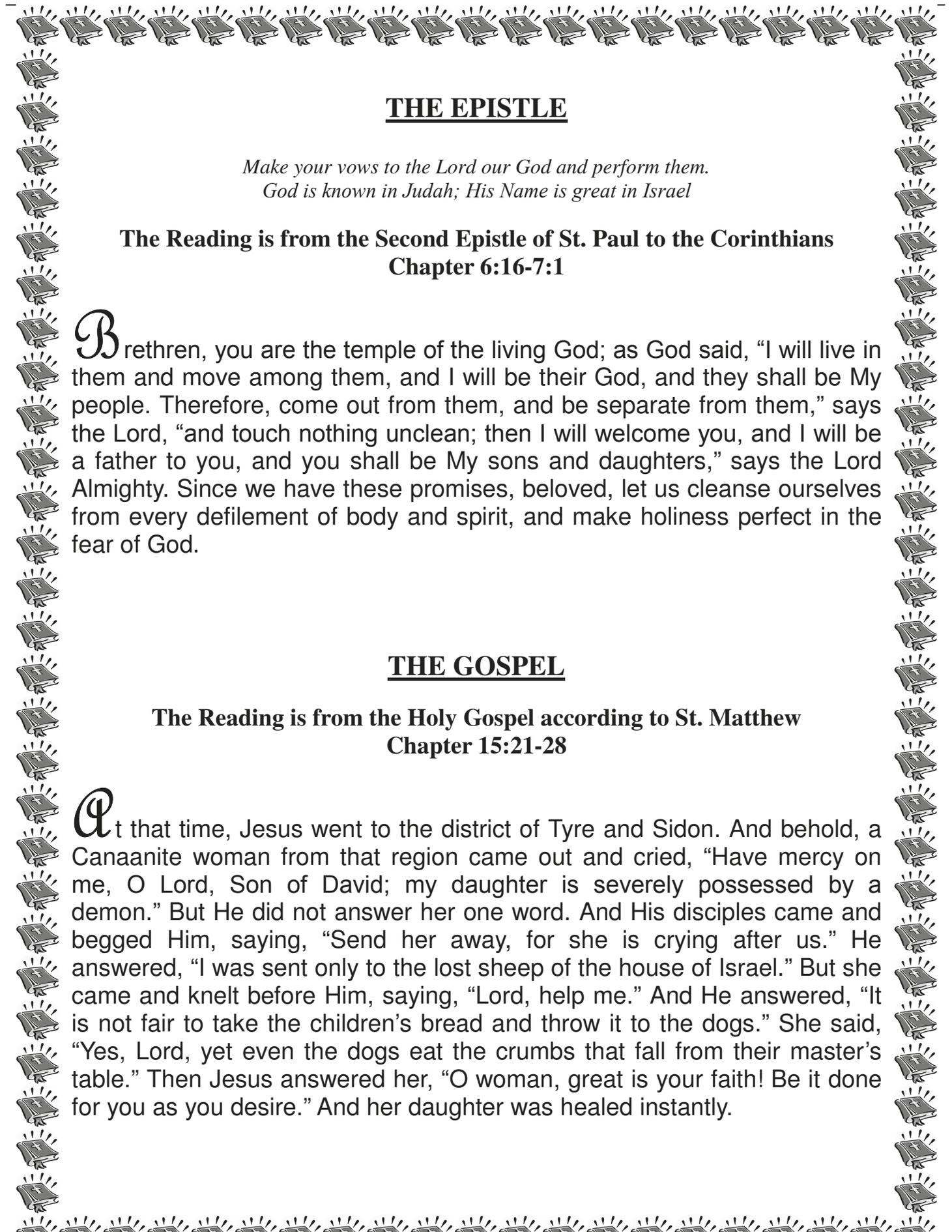
Love can only be expressed towards another human being, not limited only to romantic love, but also as a mother loves her daughter or a father loves his son or friends loving one another. Love is not found in a car or a home or a career, because only in others can we truly receive back a measure of love that inspires us to grow and face the world.

Our society today has necessitated two income households. All of our energy as working couples today is based on an idea that is never fulfilled; to keep the children busy, off the streets and to grow up balanced. With the need for daycare and the countless extra curricular activities such as sports, music, dance, and learning centers, many of us miss out on the gift that will enable our children to grow and face the world – Love. Unless a child is loved, they will never know how to love and the greatest love is an unconditional love. And with unconditional love comes the boundaries of accountability, responsibility, self-control, humility and charity along with the boundary of love to say no. This is the fuel that feeds our souls. As the Scripture says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.” (1 John 4:18)

(continued on page 5)

The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

Fr. George Shalhoub - Pastor
Fr. Jim King - Director of Youth &
Pastoral Outreach
Programs
Archdeacon Issa Rizkallah
313-690-2030
Deacon Dr. Dennis Bojrab
Robert Harb - Parish Council
Chairman
Linda Lawson - Choir Director
Stacey Badeen - Church Administrator
Arwa Ansara - Church School
Administrator
Richard Shebib/Sami Azzouz -
Ushers
Dr. Tom Saba - Young Adults-
St. John Divine
Georgine Hayes - Ladies Society
President
Nicole Khamis - Teen Soyo President
Lina Nunu - Arabic School
Keith Rowe - Cultural Center General
Manager 734-421-9220

A decorative border of small book icons surrounds the text. The books are arranged in a rectangular frame, with some at the corners and others along the edges. Each book icon is a simple line drawing of an open book with rays emanating from it, suggesting light or inspiration.

THE EPISTLE

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel*

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians Chapter 6:16-7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

PRAYER CORNER

Lord, you are the physician of our souls and body. We pray You grant the following parishioners good health and blessings: Dr. Erik Hanby, Mike Ayoub, baby Aydan Hujdurovic, Sami Freij, Chloe Photsios, Viola Boctor, Fr. James King, Sr., Chakib Shahin, Isa Hasan, Freda Ansara,

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

Holy Bread of Oblation  is offered by the families, for the month of February, in loving memory of:

- Amjad George Saba
- Boulos Jiries Saba
- Helen Boulos Saba
- Salman and Fada Sweis
- Hala Sackllah
- Said Shaheen
- Martha Sackllah
- Fred Essa
- George Kaoud
- Ibrahim Rizkallah

Upcoming Events for St. Mary Parishioners

- Feb. 28th** - Senior Heritage
- March 5th** - Ladies Society meeting

LOST

One of our parishioners has lost her "Mother's Ring". Please if anyone has seen the ring, call or bring the ring to the church office. She has had the ring for many years and it is of great sentimental value to her. A reward is being offered for the return of the ring. Thank you.

Thank You

The following parishioners and friends of the Basilica of St. Mary have given special donations to the Church in the past few weeks:

- \$50**-In loving memory of Samuel and William Jameel offered by Suad Jameel,
- \$50**-In loving memory of Jack Farhat, Jr. offered by Nabeeh and Hilda Beshara,
- \$100**-For the health and well being of newborn Marcus Frederick offered by grandparents Fred and Clair Harb,
- \$100**-For the health and well being of children David, Mira and Yarah offered by parents Wisam and Sandra Janini,
- \$100**-In memory of Jamal Musallam offered by Andrew Ansara,
- \$100**-In loving memory of Ibrahim Rizkallah offered by parents Rizkallah and Mary Rizkallah,
- \$250**-In loving memory of Henrietta Rowady offered by Dennis and Laura Gannan,
- \$300**-In loving memory of Elaine Bahu offered by the family,
- \$400**-In loving memory of Naimah Ayoub offered by family and friends,

Condolences

The clergy and parishioners at the Basilica of St. Mary extend their deepest sympathy to Bassam and Moranda Zawaideh, Rima Ayoub and the entire family on the passing of their beloved mother, Farideh Zawaideh. May her memory be eternal. 

MEMORIALS

قال يسوع: أنا القيامة والحياة من آمن بي يحيى الى الأبد.

I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25) 
Feb. 17th - 40 day memorial in loving memory of Elaine Bahu offered by the family,
Feb. 24th - 1 year memorial in loving memory of Shawky Mousa offered by his wife Jannette Mousa and family,

فليكن ذكركم مؤبدا

"A Vigil Light is Burning" In Loving Devotion

For The Health and Well Being **O**f: Chloe Photsios, Captain Timothy Lawson,
In Memory Of: Joseph Michael Mouaikel; George Abodeely; Ken Biedron, Henrietta Rowady,

Parenting Seminar

The Mariam Center presents "Parenting: Meeting the Critical Challenges of Effective Parenting". Guest speaker is Dr. John Chirban, clinical instructor in psychology at Harvard Medical School and Professor of Psychology and Chairman of the Human Development program at Hellenic College. He has also published many books. This seminar is sponsored by the Michigan Deanery and will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 10am - 2pm at the Basilica of St. Mary. The seminar is open to everyone and includes a cost of \$10.00 for lunch. Please see our website at www.saintmarylivonia.com or call the church office to reserve your seat.. There will be a book signing at the end of the lecture.

Department of Youth and Outreach

Week of February 17, 2013

Upcoming Events



- Every Saturday: Great Vespers (5:00-5:45)
- Every Monday: Bible Study (7:00pm-8:00pm)
- Every Wednesday: Mother-Toddler Group (10:00am-11:30am)
- February 22: RockyRoad (6:00-8:00pm)
- February 23: 20-40 Fellowship Game Night (7:00pm)
- February 24: Teen SOYO Movie Night (5:30pm)
- March 1: RockyRoad (6:00-8:00pm)
- March 2: Parenting Seminar with Dr. John Chirban
- March 3: Teen SOYO officers meeting

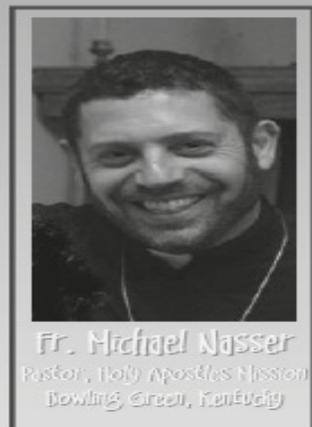
If you have any questions regarding any of these events, please call Fr. Jim King at the Department of Youth and Outreach office.
The life of the Basilica depends on you. Get involved today!

Midwest Young Adult Retreat

Guest Speaker: Fr. Michael Nasser

APRIL 5-7, 2013

- All-inclusive Registration fee: \$145 per person which includes triple/quad occupancy hotel-style lodging, all meals, and retreat registration.
- Open to all College age, Young Professionals and Young Adults (ages 18-40), both married and single.
- Schedule and registration form online at www.antiochian.org/midwest



Please visit our website for details about all the Basilica of St. Mary events and activities.
www.saintmarylivonia.com

Since love is based in our soul, it must be expressed in acts of kindness, gentleness and generosity. And if love is expressed with manipulation or a power play, it stains our soul. And if our souls are stained, we only project distrust, hate and indifference. A stained soul suffers depression, conflict and a constant state of unhappiness.

Therefore, we are to love, not only life, but those who surround us: our family. When we make choices in our relationships, based on love, we attract others who embody love, which is based also in their soul.

If we are to do something different this Valentine's Day, we need to become aware of our souls and ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Can I value others while constantly evaluating them?
2. Am I a forgiving person if I constantly remind a loved one the wrong they have done?
3. Am I a helpful person while my intentions are self-serving?
4. Is the compassion I express to others based on the intention to manipulate?
5. Is the love I express always a condemning one?

True love is free, but it requires a lifetime of work and it is usually the toughest work we face. Love is more than a feeling. It is a conscience choice to engage not only the human mind and body, but also the soul.

Dated Material

Return service requested

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The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary

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