

## *Entrance Into Great Lent - Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee* *February 11, 2018*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<i>Entrance Into Great Lent - Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)</i> 9:00 am The Sanctity of Marriage 11:30 am Gladys Atallah Jabbour	Req. by: Clergy Req. by: Maria Elana Caram Zayek and Family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 12</b>	<i>Ash Monday</i> <i>Saint Meletius of Antioch - Confessor</i> 10:00 am For the Parishioners 7:30 pm Peter Root	Req. by: Clergy Req. by: Carol Hamid
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 13</b>	<b>NO LITURGY</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<i>Saints Cyril and Methodius - Confessor</i> 10:00 am Peter Root	Req. by: Carol Hamid
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 15</b>	10:00 am Peter Root	Req. by: Jeanette, Zahia and Therese Abi - Habib
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 16</b>	10:00 am Norma Halpin 7:30 pm Stations and Benediction of the Cross	Req. by: William Halpin
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 17</b>	10:00 am Peter Root	Req. by: Jeanette, Zahia and Therese Abi - Habib
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<i>Healing of the Leper</i> 9:00 am For the Sick and Shut-Ins 11:30 am 40 Day Habib Tanios Antonios	Req. by: Clergy Req. by: Edouard Antonios

### *Weekly Offering*

Collection:	\$ 2,305.00
Candles:	\$ 104.00
Rent:	\$ 25,333.33
Debt Reduction:	\$ 270.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 28,012.33</b>

### *Readings*

<i>February 11, 2018</i>	<i>Miracle at Cana in Galilee</i> <i>Entrance Into Great Lent</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Romans 14: 14 - 23</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	<b>John 2: 1 - 11</b>
<b>Lectors:</b>	<b>9:00 am Raymond Gill</b> <b>11:30 am Adonis El Asmar - Arabic</b> <b>11:30 am Vivian Akel - English</b>
<i>February 12, 2018</i>	<i>Ash Monday</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	<b>II Corinthians 5: 20 - 6: 7</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	<b>Matthew 6: 16 - 21</b>
<b>Lectors:</b>	<b>10:00 am Jane Gill</b> <b>7:30 pm Zahia Abi-Habib - Arabic</b> <b>7:30 pm Denise About Chrouch</b>
<i>February 18, 2018</i>	<i>Healing of the Leper</i>
<b>Reading:</b>	<b>Romans 6: 12 - 23</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	<b>Mark 1: 35 - 45</b>
<b>Lectors:</b>	<b>9:00 am Raymond Gill</b> <b>11:30 am Edouard Antonios - Arabic</b> <b>11:30 am Lydia Gordon - English</b>

### *Yearly Budget – 2018*

<i>Annual Operating Budget:</i>	<i>\$ 400,000.00</i>
<b>Collections to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 8,031.00</b>
<b>Candles to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 418.00</b>
<b>Donations to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Cathedral Stipends to Date:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Memorials to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 125.00</b>
<b>Dividends to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 58.43</b>
<b>Rentals to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 50,418.66</b>
<b>Fund Raising/Advertising:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Debt Reduction to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 640.00</b>
<b>Easter /Christmas Flowers:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal to Date:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Altar Bread/Wine/Sanctuary Lamps</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 60,691.09</b> <b>(-339,308.91)</b>

Each Quarter we must generate \$100,000.00 in revenue to stay on budget.

*Dear Parishioners and Friends:*

*This weekend we begin our Lenten journeys of faith. The actual number of days from today until Easter Sunday is 49. Why do we have so many....*

*The actual Lenten schedule is 40 days of fast and abstinence beginning with Ash Monday and concluding on the Friday before Sha'neenee. That Friday has its own Liturgy which is known as the Temptation of Christ. If you recall; Jesus went into seclusion for 40 days and nights, into the desert and fasted. This is where the practice of fasting came into place for all true believers; in imitation of Christ.*

*The next day we begin Passion Week, which as you know has its own Liturgical cycle including the Coming to the Harbor, Rite of the Lamp, Washing of the Feet, Pre-Sanctified Service and Burial of Christ. It ends with the Awaited Light Service on Holy Saturday which breaks the second part of the Fast.*

*Now having said this, how do we Fast.*

*Fasting should not be deprivation of sorts. Especially if we wish to eat and drink healthier and exercise more. Those should be done as a given. Rather, our Fast should be more of a challenge. Challenge in the sense to become more Holy. Therefore, Praying more intently, going to Liturgy more often and not just on Sunday, Reconciling with our enemies as well as with God in the Mystery of Reconciliation, and not gossiping with or about others. This is a great place to start.*

*I challenge you even further. I am asking you to make every effort to attend the Friday evening devotions and listen intently as to what the speakers have to say. Go on retreat or a day of recollection. Go out of your way to help in a soup-kitchen or a homeless shelter. Pray as a family. Put down the phones, ipads and the like and discuss your faith as husbands and wives and as a family. I guarantee you will notice a difference in your lives.*

*Let us make every effort to be more intentional disciples and not just marginal Catholics.*

*In our Lord, I remain*

*Aboona James*

*Maronite Christian Formation*

*Classes are cancelled next week due to the President's Day weekend.*

*Coffee Hour*

*We are looking for volunteers to sponsor the Coffee Hour one Sunday each year. Most of the time the families who offer the Liturgy also offer the Coffee Hour, however, not always.*

*Yolla Howayek has graciously offered to organize this project. She needs everyone's cooperation. Please assist us and sign up for one Sunday. Thank you for your assistance.*

*MYO / MYA Regional Workshop*

*The Parish of Our Lady Star of the East in Pleasantville, NJ will sponsor a one day Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Sayedna Gregory and Msgr. James are the speakers for the day. We encourage all MYO and MYA members to attend. Please see the enclosed Flyer for additional details.*

*Lenten Schedule*

*We will have speakers each Friday evening and Confessions will be available. The Theme for the Lenten Series will be "Building solid relationships with each other through Jesus". A full list of speakers will be available by February 11, 2018.*

*Lenten Meals*

*The first Lenten meal will be held this Friday, February 16th immediately following the Stations and Service of the Cross. The Knights are going to sponsor the first meal. A list of sponsors is being prepared. We also ask that we limit the menu to no more than 6 items. Thank you.*

*Charities Appeal*

*Our Charities Appeal this year is \$6,500.00. We have until Great Friday to collect these funds. Enclosed is a letter from Sayedna Gregory describing the various distributions of the money. Please be as generous as possible.*

*You have received in your envelope packets one envelope for the months of February, March and April to complete the Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.*

*Immaculate Conception Confraternity*

*The ladies will meet today in the Rectory.*

*Knights of Saint Maron*

*The men will meet in the Library today.*

*Maronite Youth Organization*

*The MYO will meet today in the Library.*

*Finance Committee*

*The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory.*

*First Reconciliation*

*Our First Communion class will make First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 17, 2018 following the 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. Please pray for our children.*

*First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 2018 at the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy.*