

POINTS OF INTEREST

Choir Practice. Join us on Sunday, **March 1** after the Divine Liturgy, for our choir practice in preparation for Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Anyone with a nice voice is welcome to join St. Ann's choir.

Maronite Christian Formation. Starting **March 1**, the children of St Ann will meet for the Maronite Christian Formation (Sunday School). The focus will be on the **Maronite Tradition and Theology**. The meetings will be held in the church hall on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of the month from **9:00 AM - 9:45 AM**.

St. Patrick's Day. The Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon will be on **March 15** at 11:00 a.m. The cost will be \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children and children under 5 for free. However, a volunteer is needed to Co-Chair our Annual St. Patrick's Day.

Lenten Liturgical Schedule. Let us gather during this Lent each **Friday at 6:30 PM** and pray the *Ramsho* and have the traditional Maronite Service of *The Adoration of the Cross*.

Support. Christians in Lebanon are suffering. Please pray for Lebanon! If you are able to relieve some of the suffering, please visit: www.caritas.org.lb

Contributions 2014. If you want to receive a copy of your contributions for 2014, contact the parish office before **March 1**.

Bulletin Advertisements. The time has come for us again to seek sponsors for the publication of the parish bulletin. There are several options. For as little as \$8 per month, — you can publish your message or advertisement. For more info call the parish office.

Memorials & Liturgy Intentions. If you like to offer a Memorial or a Divine Liturgy intention for your loved ones, write or call the parish office. In preparing your will, you might wish to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgies for yourself and your family.

Verse Of The Week

"My soul rests in God alone, from whom comes my salvation."

(Cf. Psalm 62:2)

St. Lucy

This woman was a rich young Christian who was martyred in the latter part of the third century. Lucy's mother arranged a marriage for her to a pagan man. Lucy, however had vowed to give her life to Christ. She knew her mother would not be convinced of her vows. Lucy prayed for a cure to her mother's long hemorrhagic illness. her mother's illness was cured miraculously. As a result, her grateful mother allowed Lucy to devote her life to Christ.

Lucy's rejected pagan bridegroom denounced Lucy as a Christian. The governor intended to force Lucy into prostitution. When the guards came for her they were unable to move her. The governor ordered her killed instead. They tortured Lucy, including tearing out her eyes. She was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set on fire...the fire went out...even though she had been covered with resin and oil. All else failing, the governor had Lucy stabbed in the heart.

St. Lucy is the patron saint to cure hemorrhages, blind people, blindness (including Spiritual blindness), dysentery, eye diseases, eye problems, and throat infections.

Saint's Quote

"Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with the feast and ends with the headache."

Fulton J. Sheen

"THEIR BLOOD IS ONE AND THE SAME"

Pope Francis Calls For Unity After Coptic Christians Beheaded By ISIS

Pope Francis urged Christians to find strength through unity, calling the 21 Coptic Christians beheaded by ISIS "martyrs" who belong to the entire Christian world.

The appeal echoes the outrage that has galvanized Egyptian air forces. Threats to "sack Rome" are also causing Italian forces to consider action.

Pope Francis called for all Christians to hear the cries of the recently executed Coptic Christians:

"The blood of our Christian brothers is a testimony which cries out to be heard. It makes no difference whether they be Catholics, Orthodox, Copts or Protestants. They are Christians. Their blood is one and the same."

The Pope added, "as we recall these brothers who died only because they confessed Christ, I ask that we encourage each another to go forward with this ecumenism which is giving us strength, the ecumenism of blood." Pope Francis mentioned the victims last words, "Jesus help me."

As previously reported by the Inquisitr, Coptic Christians are an ancient religious sect that can trace its language and culture back to the first century A.D. Islamist groups have already murdered large numbers of the religious minority, including victims of late night kidnappings.

According to the Huffington Post, Pope Francis met with the group's patriarch, Tawadros II, in May of 2013 to promote unity. Pope Francis and his Coptic counterpart prayed together for the future of the Christians in the Middle East. At the time, Francis said, "from shared suffering can blossom forth forgiveness, reconciliation and peace, with God's help."

Now, almost two years later, Copts and other Christian groups face even more danger, and if ISIS has its way, the peril will come to one of the centers of the Catholic world. According to the New York Post, an ISIS member in the execution video vowed the group would eventually sack Rome, about 600 miles from Tripoli.

Italy's Foreign Minister, Roberta Pinotti, is ready to answer the threat immediately if necessary, telling the newspaper Il Messaggero that 5,000 troops are ready for action. Egypt is already responding to the execution. Reuters reports they've hit militant camps and training centers in pre-dawn airstrikes.

The Deutsche Presse-Agentur reported that later Monday, Pope Francis called Patriarch Tawadros II to give his condolences.

Source: www.inquisitr.com [Posted Feb 16, 2015]

Copts died with Christ's name on their lips, says Aziz Mina

This is according to Bishop of Giuzeh who spoke to Fides news agency: "This is how they celebrated their victory, a victory no butcher can ever take away from them. It sealed their martyrdom in a way".

The Copts who were slaughtered by Islamic State jihadists in Libya died pronouncing Christ's name. The news was confirmed by Antonios Aziz Mina, the Coptic Catholic bishop of Giuzeh, who spoke to Catholic news agency Fides. "The video that shows their execution was a chilling cinematographic *mise-en-scene* that aimed to spread terror. And yet in that diabolical product of appearance and bloody horror some of the martyrs can be seen repeating the words "Lord Jesus Christ" at the moment of their barbaric execution. Jesus' name was the last word they uttered. Like in the passion of the early martyrs, they entrusted themselves to the One who would embrace them just moments later. This is how they celebrated their victory, a victory no butcher can ever take away from them. That name they whispered right at the very end sealed their martyrdom in a way."

Source: VATICAN INSIDER STAFF / ROME 02-17-2015



The Pope Tweets

"There is no sin that God cannot pardon. All we need to do is ask for forgiveness."

@ Pontifex / Feb 21, 2015