

**REMEMBERING ALL THE DEPARTED FAITHFUL**  
**(FEBRUARY 11TH 2007)**

Dearly beloved:

Every year, before the Great Lent, and after remembering all the departed holy fathers and priests, the Church recognizes all the departed faithful. This year, February 11th Sunday, has been set aside as the day to remember all our relatives, loved ones and friends who have passed away. On this day, we are remembering all the departed souls in the Holy Qurbana. In order to do this in a proper manner, we have to realize the importance of this day by giving all the departed names before Sunday or before the morning prayers. I have seen people giving their loved one's names in the middle of Holy Qurbana. According to the Church faith, special prayers for the departed are said five times by the celebrant during this period, namely, at (1) Pre-communion service (Thuyaba); (2) Absolution prayer (Hoosoyo, Promeon, Sedra); (3) Recitation of the Creed; (4) Great Intercession; and, (5) after dismissal, but before post communion and offerings.

Today's bible reading is taken from the gospel of St. Luke 12: 32-48. This parable contains a lesson in faithfulness and a warning against laziness. Faithfulness is very important to God. It is the foundation for any lasting and meaningful relationship. The Lord is committed to us in a bond of unbreakable love and faithfulness. That is what covenant or agreement means. The Lord expects us to make good use of the gifts and graces he gives to us. The more he gives, the more he requires.

“Lord, you are faithful even when we fail. Help us to remain ever faithful to you and to not shrink back when we encounter difficulties. May always live in your presence and be ready to meet you when you call us on the Day of Judgment”.

**Bible readings for Sunday, February 11th, 2007.**  
**(Remembering all the Departed Faithful)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

Genesis	-	49: 33 - 50: 13
Ezekiel	-	37: 1-14
Isaiah	-	38: 10-20
Maccabians	-	12: 38-45

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	St. James	- 3: 1-12
Epistles of St. Paul:	I Corinthians	- 15: 20-38
Holy Gospel:	St. Luke	- 12: 32-48

**Next Sunday, February 18th is Kothine Sunday, it is also called Sunday of Cana. The Great Lent Starts on Monday, February 19th by commemorating the first miracle performed by Jesus, turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee. The Gospel reading for each Sunday of the Great Lent is about a miracle performed by Jesus. Please look at the notice board.**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex