

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
7142 Alaska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
Phone (202) 291- 5153  
Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor  
Pastor's Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com  
Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820

**Sunday of the Revelation to Joseph, December 15, 2019**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 11:00 o'clock**  
Wadih Massoud Maalouf (6<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and Chafik Massoud Maalouf (19<sup>th</sup> anniversary)  
Jacqueline Abi Fadel (40 Day Anniversary)

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 11:00 o'clock**  
President Rene Moawad, Colonel Joseph Ramia; Rene Kaado Moawad; Joseph Al Basha; Assad Anwar Mouawad; Yaakoub EISakal; George Khawand; and Sayed Elias Moura

**Christmas Eve at midnight**

Members of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, living and deceased

**Christmas Day at 11:00 o'clock**

**Sunday, December 29, 2019 at 11:00 o'clock**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 11: 00 o'clock**

**Sunday, January 5, 2019 at 11:00 o'clock**  
Faten Abou Chabki

**Let us Pray the Rosary**

Please join fellow parishioners as we pray the Holy Rosary every **Sunday at 10:15 a.m.** in preparation for the Divine Liturgy and in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

**Ushers**

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

Gebran Fattouch, Elie Malkoun, Rafah Elias and Halim Younes

**Thank you for your generosity**

Summary of Collection for **Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Regular Sunday Collection	\$ 1788
Pledges	\$ 1200
Tuesday Evening:	\$ 73
Mail Donation	\$ 540

**Please Join US**

**On Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.**, Chorbishop Seely Beggiani will present a lecture on **Syriac Spirituality (Part 3)** at the Seminary's Library. This is meant as a faith formation for young people and adults. All are welcome and are urged to attend.

**Parish Christmas Luncheon**

**Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Christmas Party, December 22,** Please join our annual Christmas Luncheon on December 22, 2019 following Sunday liturgy. The program includes Nativity Play, Christmas Songs and Luncheon. **Santa and his helpers will also pay a visit.** We ask that to please bring canned food or imperishable items each Sunday to donate to the Collection Box downstairs in the Church Hall. We will be collecting the food items from now through December 22 to donate to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries which runs a food pantry for the Needy.

**2020 New Year's Eve**

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church invites you to celebrate New Year's Eve on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons, VA. For more information, please contact Gebran Fattouch at (443) 600-9484.

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, December 22, 2019, Genealogy Sunday**  
Rom. 1:1-12; Matt 1:1-17

**FYI**

**Bishop Gregory Mansour** of the Eparchy of Saint Maron has authorized a **special collection** for Christmas. This special collection is a gift for the personal use of the Pastor. Thank you for your generosity.



**Christmas Liturgical Schedule**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

- ★ Divine Liturgy at 11: 00 o'clock
  - ★ Christmas Novena following the Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**
- ★ Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

- ★ Divine Liturgy at 11:00 o'clock
- ★ Christmas Novena following the Divine Liturgy
- ★ *Following the Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena there will be a parish Christmas reception in the social hall*

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019 (Christmas Eve)**

- ★ 11:30 p.m.: Pre-Liturgy Christmas Carols
- ★ 12:00 Midnight Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019 (Christmas Day)**

- ★ 11:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

- ★ 11: 00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019 (New Year's Eve)**

- ★ 6:30 P.M. Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and World Day of Peace is a Holy Day of Obligation**

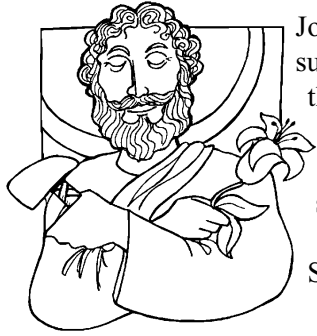
- ★ 11: 00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Monday, January 6, 202 (Baptism of the Lord)**

- ★ 7:30 P.M. Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Epiphany water

**Epiphany or the Baptism of the Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation**

## Revelation to Joseph



Joseph, the spouse of Mary, lived a life of obscurity and devotion . He suffered the same lot during the first century of the Church. However, we find that Jerome praises his virginity; John Chryostom spoke about his suffering and his joys, It is said that Helen built a church in his honor at Bethlehem and a feast has been celebrated in his memory by the Eastern Churches since the ninth century.

The Maronite Church celebrates his feast on the fifth Sunday of the Season of Announcement and also on March 19.

From the day of the announcement of Gabriel to Mary and her virginal conception , three months had already passed. During this time, Mary kept silent.

Although the consequences could have been disastrous to her reputation, she revealed the great mystery to no one, not even Joseph her betrothed. She trusted in God and knew that He would reveal the great mystery in His own time and in His own way.

According to the Jewish law, betrothal was equivalent to marriage. Even before cohabitation, if a man desired to leave a woman, he had to give to the bride a written divorce. If the woman was found guilty of adultery, it was the duty of the man to repudiate her publically (Deuteronomy 22:10-29; Leviticus 20:10).

When Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, he could not understand how something like this could have happened. Mary continued to be modest, kind and compassionate. Saint Jerome describes Joseph's confusion. *Joseph knowing the chastity of Mary and admiring what happened, hid in a silence the mystery he was unable to understand.* Just as Mary respected the mystery, so also did Joseph. However, he decided that it was his duty to send her away in silence, even though he would have to suffer. They would have to separate rather than unveil the mystery. The Holy Family began with this martyrdom of self in the face of God's mystery.

God intervened in a dream, which Joseph did not doubt as coming from heaven. God told Joseph that Mary was pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. He also gave Joseph his role as the *father of the family: Mary will give birth and you will call him Jesus. . . . This child will deliver people from their sins* (Matt 1:21). A great responsibility was given to Joseph and, like Mary, he accepted the will of God.

Joseph was called to be the humble servant of God, Jesus and Mary. He would do all his duties in silence. He would serve, protect, provide and die before even seeing a miracle. His entire life became one of love, immolation, sacrifice, work and self-effacement.

He would take Mary to Bethlehem, flee to Egypt, bring Jesus and Mary out of Egypt, look for Jesus in the Temple and die in silence. This was his mission and he accomplished it because he trusted in God.

Joseph has often been compared to the Joseph of the Old Testament, the son of Jacob. As Joseph of the Old Testament saved Egypt and its neighbors, may the Joseph of the New Testament save the Church and all those who come to him. *Go to Joseph. He has the riches of the king. The King has entrusted to him the distribution of His goods.* □

