

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

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Finding in the Temple, January 5, 2020

Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock

Faten Abou Chabki

Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

For the Parish

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock

Toufic and Zahida Fahed

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock

Joseph Abi-Fadel (one year anniversary)

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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, January 12, 2020

Maroun Mezher, Alain Khoury and Chris Khoury

Holy Day of Obligation

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Monday, January 6, 2020 (Baptism of the Lord) is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of the Epiphany Water will take place at 7:30 p.m. A Holy Day of Obligation means that a Catholic person who has reached the age of reason (7 years old) is bound under the penalty of mortal sin to attend Liturgy on that day.

Sunday School

Religious Education Program or Sunday School will resume on **Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 10 o'clock.** Again let us resolve to make the religious education of our children a top priority in 2020.

Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 2020, the Pastoral Council will have its monthly meeting at 10 o'clock in the office.

Pastoral Visit

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, His Excellency Bishop Gregory Mansour will make a pastoral visit to our parish. He will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and a gathering with the MYA and MYO at the Seminary Library.

Second Collection

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, a second collection will be taken for the Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities (this collection combines the four USCCB collections: Central & Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Operation Rice Bowl which is a part of CRS). The total is divided evenly. All funds collected will be forwarded to the Chancery for transfer to the USCCB.

Scripture Readings

Sunday January 12, 2020, First Sunday of Epiphany

2 Corinthians 10:1-11; John 1:29 - 34

Please Join US

On Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 12:30 p.m., Chorbishop Seely Beggiani will present a lecture on **Syriac Spirituality (Part 4)** 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.

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of Collection for **Sunday, December 29, 2019**

Regular Sunday Collection \$1243

Pledges \$ 400

Contributions: \$ 3000

Christmas Collections: \$ 1265



Epiphany of the Lord

On January 6, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Eastern Churches this feast is known by two names: Epiphany and Theophany. The Greek word, "Epiphany" means "a manifestation" or "an apparition" and the word, "Theophany," "an appearance of

God." On this day we celebrate the appearance or manifestation of Christ among us as God's Son. Christ begins his public life with his baptism by John in the Jordan river.

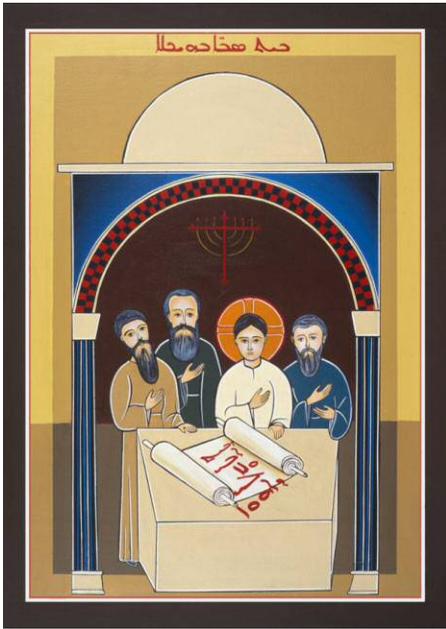
The feast of the Epiphany reminds us not only of the baptism of Christ, but also of our own baptism. St. Ephrem in his Hymn on Epiphany says: "... *Our blessed Lord came to be baptized with sinners and because of his glory the heavens were opened. The One who purifies all creatures, desiring to cleanse them, went into the waters and sanctified them for our baptism.*" It is for this reason that we bless water on this day. Originally, the mystery of baptism was celebrated on this feast and the waters blessed were those of baptism.

Did You Know?

At midnight, on the night before the Epiphany, Maronite tradition has it that Jesus will pass over and bless the homes. At the moment Christ passes, all creation bows down to Him except for the cursed fig tree and the proud mulberry tree. Maronites greet each other with the term "*Deyim Deyim*" which means "everlasting, everlasting" and signifies that the Everlasting One (Jesus Christ) will always visit and bless us.

The Finding in the Temple

We know little about the childhood of our Lord except for the incident which is celebrated in the Liturgy today (the Finding in the Temple). Jesus, as a boy, joined his parents in going up to Jerusalem and the Temple for the feast of Passover. After fulfilling the requirements of Jewish Law, Joseph and Mary set out for home, presuming that Jesus was traveling with relatives. In reality, he had remained in Jerusalem where Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Luke's account of the incident ends with the note that Jesus was subject to his parents.



In today's feast two points become clear to us: Jesus fulfills the law of Moses in his own life, and he does so as one who has humbled himself to become one of us in all things, but sin.

On the feast of the Circumcision we were reminded that Jesus was subject to the requirements of the Mosaic law and today we are again reminded that Jesus fulfilled the spiritual responsibilities of a member of God's chosen people; for he prayed in the Temple and celebrated the Passover with his family, he who was both the true Temple and the Passover sacrificed for us. We are thus reminded that through our participation in the Sacrifice of Christ's body we became living temples of the Lord.

Jesus listened to the teachers of the law and amazed them by his questions. He who was the teacher of Israel would establish a new law which would not be written on tablets of stone, but rather upon our hearts.

Christ our Passover and teacher comes among us with the humility and simplicity of a child. He who was the eternal Son of God abandoned his prerogatives and taught us by his obedience to his parents that we are subject to our Father in heaven, the Father's will must be our will, the Father's care and concern must be manifested in our love for his children.

