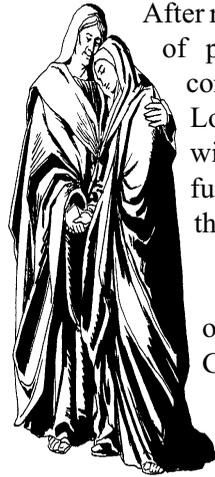


## *Visitation to Elizabeth*

The third Sunday of the Season of the Annunciation commemorates another important event in the unfolding of the Promise of God: Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.



After receiving such a tremendous good news, Mary could have secluded herself in a life of prayer and contemplation. However, after the angel of the Lord communicated the news of Elizabeth's conception to her, Mary perceived it as the Lord's will that she goes to be with Elizabeth, and thus chose to share the divine life within her with another. Mary shared Jesus with others even before His birth. The fundamental task of an apostle is to share Jesus with others, and so, Mary is called the Queen of the Apostles.

Impelled by the Spirit of God, Mary left on a journey that required four days of difficult travel, especially for a poor girl such as herself. Yet, as the Mother of God and our Mother, she was already concerned for the welfare of others.

When Mary encountered Elizabeth, the unborn infant in her womb leapt for joy, and Elizabeth herself was filled with the Spirit and sang of the blessedness of Mary.

Mary is blessed, not simply because she was to be the Mother of God, but also because of her own personal faith. She heard the words of the angel and accepted everything that was to happen with humility. For this reason, she is blessed throughout the ages.

The hymn of Mary differs from that of Zachariah. Zachariah's hymn is communal: He is proclaiming gratitude to God on behalf of all the people of Israel. On the other hand, Mary's hymn is personal, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. . . ." She is humbly proclaiming the great things that God has done for her. In humility, the Virgin of Nazareth proclaims how great the Lord has made her by choosing her to be the Mother of His Son. The hymn of Mary announces a three fold revolution which God will bring about through His Son: It is moral "He has confused the proud."; social "He has deposed the mighty from their thrones.... "; and economic ". . . The hungry He has given every good thing. . . .".

To be called by God for any task, brings with it a crown of sorrow and a crown of joy. God chooses us not for our own glorification, but in order to use us to bring about His Kingdom. Like Mary, Let us respond with humility and be grateful to God for choosing us as His instruments.



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**Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, November 29, 2020**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020**

■ Claude Merhi

**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

■ Father Mounir Fakhry (40 Day anniversary)

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

Deceased members of the Zailah and Saade families

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

Fahd and Jamileh Nasr

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

Deceased members of Helou and Wehbe families

**Reconciliation (Confession)** is available every Sunday between 10:15 and 10:45 a.m. before the Divine Liturgy)

The **last Sunday of every month**, a Holy Hour of Adoration will take place after the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy.

**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.

**Are You Interested**

**On Sunday, December 6, 2020**, following the Divine Liturgy some of the ladies in the parish will be selling pre-packaged home made sweets (*Namoura, Macroon, soffoof and Graibe*). The proceeds will benefit the parish. The event will be take out only.

**Holy Day of Obligation**

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **7:30 p.m.** A Holy Day of Obligation means that a Catholic person who has reached the age of reason is obligated to attend the Divine Liturgy under the penalty of mortal sin.

**Second Collection**

**On Sunday, December 13, 2020**, a second collection will be taken to benefit the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. (This collection is used for Missions in the USA. Our Eparchy has received large grants from the USCCB from this collection for several years.) All proceeds collected will be sent to our Chancery for transfer to the USCCB.

**FYI**

**Eparchial General Norms**

**Statute 79.** The celebration of all of the Sacraments is to be carried out exclusively according to the approved liturgical texts of our Maronite Church and this Eparchy.

**Statute 81.** The use of sacred music during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and all other Sacraments and liturgical services should reflect our own Maronite heritage. Hymns from other traditions and popular songs are to be avoided. Hymns are to be sung in English, Arabic, and Syriac. The use of pre-recorded music (CD's, iPods, YouTube, etc.) is not permitted during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, or funerals.

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, December 6, 2020, Birth of John the Baptizer**

**Gal 4:21- 5:1; LK 1:57 - 66**

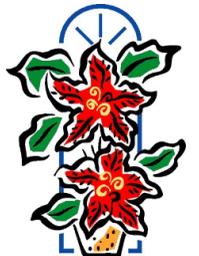
**Statute 82.** Every parish is to have a choir and musicians to assist in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, and with the other Sacraments if appropriate. In a special way, youth and young adults should be encouraged to take part in this ministry.

**Statute 83.** The role of the choir and accompanying musicians is to lead the congregation in liturgical hymns that are appropriate to the Divine Liturgy or other celebrations. Hymns are to be chosen so as not to give the impression of a performance, but rather to foster participation. In view of this, solos are to be limited.

**Statute 84.** The use of electronic **video screens** (power point) is not permitted in the churches of our Eparchy.

**Christmas Poinsettias**

If you would like to contribute toward flowers for the Church at Christmas, please let me know on or before **December 15, 2020**. To avoid any confusion please **give your check and order form directly to the Pastor (Please do not bring or have poinsettias delivered)**. The check should be made payable to Our Lady of Lebanon and marked "**Christmas Flowers.**" Cost: **Poinsettias \$20 each**. All flower contributions will be acknowledged in the Christmas Bulletin. Flowers could be in memory of deceased loved ones, or in honor of a loved one, or even in thanksgiving for special graces. Monetary contribution is also appreciated and acknowledged.



**ORDER  
YOUR  
POINSETTIAS**

**Donor's name and last name:**

**Number of Poinsettias:**

**In memory of:**

**In Honor of:**

**In Thanksgiving:**