

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

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Birth of The Revelation to Joseph, December 13, 2020

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Deceased members of the Zailah and Saade families

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fahd and Jamileh Nasr

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish both living and deceased

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 at 11:00 o'clock

Special Intention

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Deceased members of Helou and Wehbe families

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Jean Nimatullah Chahine (40 Day Anniversary)

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Alice Zischkau (40 Day Anniversary)

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.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 20, 2020, Genealogy Sunday

Rom. 1:1-12; Matt 1:1-17

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.

Christmas Raffle

This year we are conducting a Christmas Raffle (50/50) to benefit the Church. The cost is \$20 per ticket. If you would like to support this effort, please contact **Gebran Fattouch at (443) 600-9484**. The drawing will take place before the end of 2020.

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 for proper transfer.

A Piece of Trivia

Do you Know why we put Tinsels on Christmas Trees

Legend has it, that when the Holy Family was on its way to Egypt, as evening came they sought refuge in a cave. It was very cold and the ground was white with frost. A spider saw the little baby Jesus, and recognizing his creator, wished that he could do something to keep him warm in the cold night. He decided to use the talent that God gave him so he span his web across the entrance of the cave to make a curtain to keep the cold air out.

A group of Herod's soldiers came seeking infant boys to kill in order to carry out Herod's command to kill all male children two years and under. When they came to the cave they were about to burst in to search it, but their captain noticed the spider's web, covered with the white frost and stretched across the entrance of the cave. So he said to his soldiers "look at the spider's web. It is unbroken and there cannot possibly be anyone in the cave because anyone entering would have torn the web."

So the soldiers continued their way and left the Holy Family in peace because a little spider had spun his web. This is the origin of the custom of putting tinsel on Christmas trees. The tinsel stands for the spider's web across the entrance of the cave while the Holy Family was on its way to Egypt.

(<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/dsb/matthew-2.html>)

A Night In Bethlehem

The MYO National Virtual Christmas event will take place next Friday December 18, 2020 8pm EST. This event is open to all youth ages 12-18 in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

All youth, advisors, and pastors will be able to register at www.maroniteyouth.org. Please note that youth must have a parent fill out the registration form for them. The pastor should be aware of any youth registering. You can direct any registration questions or issues to office@maroniteyouth.org.

A ZOOM Link will be emailed out shortly after registration, so please ensure that youth email addresses are included in the registration. They will also need to sign in by 7:45pm to avoid any technical difficulties.

We encourage MYOs to practice social distancing if they plan to join the evening of prayer together as a group. However, we ask that each individual register separately. For more information, please see the attached flyer to this bulletin.

Christmas Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday, December 15 - Friday, December 18, 2020

★ Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena at **7:30 p.m.**

Saturday, December 19, 2020

★ No Divine Liturgy **or Novena**

Sunday, December 20, 2020

★ Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena at 11:00 o'clock

Monday, December 21, - Wednesday, December 23, 2020

★ Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena at **7:30 p.m.**

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) 2020

★ **6:30 p.m.:** Pre-Liturgy Christmas Carols

★ **7: 00 p.m.** Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 25, 2020 (Christmas Day)

★ **11:00 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27, 2020

★ **11: 00 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 31, 2020 (New Year's Eve)

★ **6:30 P.M.** Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 1, 2021

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

★ **11: 00 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

MAKE ROOM IN
YOUR HEART

DECEMBER 18, 2020

8PM EST
7PM CST
5PM PST

AN EVENING OF PRAYER
WITH THE MYO

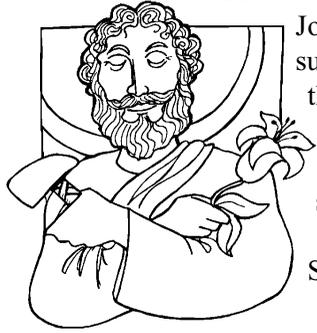


Register online at
www.maroniteyouth.org



Maronite Youth Organization

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.* □ (Maronite Divine Office, Volume 1)

