

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

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Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820

Birth of John the Baptizer, December 6, 2020

Sunday, December 6, 2020

- Father Mounir Fakhry (40 Day anniversary)
- Gerges Fakhry

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

Sunday, January 3, 2021

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.

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.

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 for proper transfer.

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

- ★ **11:30 p.m.:** Pre-Liturgical Christmas Carols
- ★ **12:00 Midnight** 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

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 (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

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**. 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.

Donor's name and last name:

Number of Poinsettias:

In memory of:

In Honor of:

In Thanksgiving:



Birth of John the Baptizer

The Church does not usually celebrate birthdays of the saints, but rather their birthdays in heaven, namely the day of their deaths when they obtain their crown of glory. However, in the case of John the Baptist, we celebrate his earthly birth - his coming into the world to announce the Son.

John's coming was filled with marvels. The angel announced his birth. Because of his doubt Zechariah was struck dumb. John leaped with joy in the womb of his mother when visited by the Virgin. He was sanctified at that time by the Holy Spirit. As soon as John was born, Zechariah was able to speak and sing the beautiful song of the "blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel," a hymn the Church continues to sing even today.

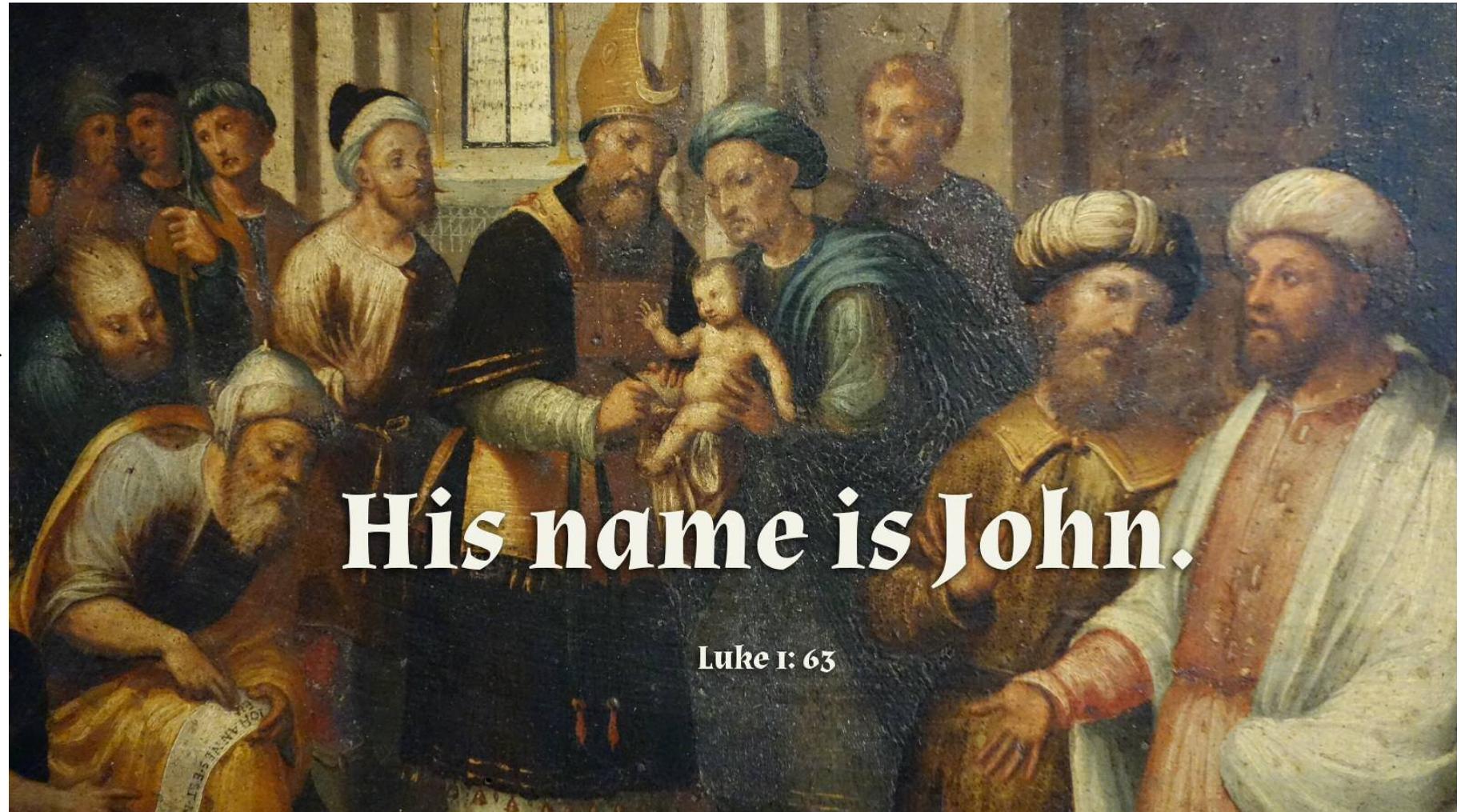
The angel predicted that many would rejoice at John's birth and that he would be great in the sight of God, and holy, ascetic, and just before the people. He will bring many back to God. He will be the forerunner of the Savior and return the hearts of parents to their children, and the unbelievers to the wisdom of the just. He will prepare for God a holy people.

Some months before the Lord began His preaching ministry, John came out of his solitude and appeared near the Jordan River, as the Forerunner of the Lord predicted by the prophets. He impressed the crowds by his poverty, austerity of life, severity of preaching and the practicality of his exhortations. His ministry was quite successful. Many people came to him to receive his baptism and confess their faults as he announced the imminence of the messianic Kingdom. He was so humble that he declared himself unworthy to untie the sandals of the Lord. "I have baptized you in water; He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8). He will separate the sinners from the just.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 13, 2020, *Revelation to Joseph*

Eph. 3:1-13; Matthew 1:18-25



When Jesus came to be baptized, John wanted to withdraw, saying that it was he who should be baptized by the Lord, but Jesus insisted. John said, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," and told his disciples to follow Jesus. When the disciples complained that Jesus was becoming more and more popular, John said, "He must increase and I must decrease." He reproached Herod for his scandalous conduct and was put in jail. In prison he sent his disciples to Jesus. He wanted them to follow Him and to let Jesus declare Himself as the Savior predicted by Isaiah. John was praised as superior to all the faithful of the Old Testament.

(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful, Volume 1)