

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 3, 2021

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Jean Nimatullah Chahine (40 Day Anniversary)

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Faten Abou Chabke

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Alice Zischkau (40 Day Anniversary)

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Sunday, January 31, 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.

Scripture Readings

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 (Epiphany of the Lord)

Tit 2:11-3:7; Luke 3:15-22

Sunday January 10, 2021, First Sunday of Epiphany

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

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.

Holy Day of Obligation

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 (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 Virtually (online) **Monday, January 4, 2021 at 10 o'clock.** Again let us resolve to make the religious education of our children a top priority in 2021.

Second Collection

On Sunday, January 24, 2021, 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.

End of the Year Statements

End of the year statements will be mailed by the middle of January to all our active donors. If you do not receive yours, please let **the Pastor** (not a third party) know.

If your address or phone number has changed, please call **the church office only** and update your file. It is vital that we keep your file up-to-date.

While we welcome everyone to worship with us, we encourage you to contact the Church Office as soon as possible if you would like to register in the parish. Please keep in mind, in order for you to get any correspondence from the Church, you must be registered. Registration gives you the sense of belonging to the Parish and gives

us the opportunity to try to better serve you.

Please make sure you **pick up your envelopes for 2021** from the back of the Church, if you have not already done so. If you used the envelope system in 2020, your number remains the same for this year.

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.

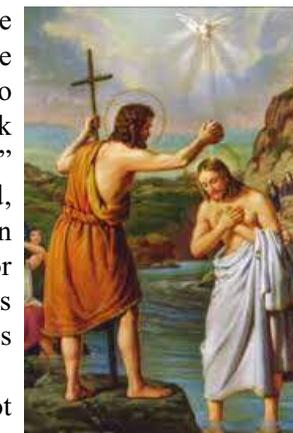
The feast of the Epiphany reminds us not only of the baptism of Christ, but also of our own baptism. St. Ephrem in his Hymn on Epiphany says: "... *Our blessed Lord came to be baptized with sinners and because of his glory the heavens were opened. The One who purifies all creatures, desiring to cleanse 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.

A Big Thank You

Indeed, and in spite of all the darkness, uncertainties, turbulence, tragedies and difficulties we have been experiencing due to Covid-19, and other disasters, God has blessed us in 2020. For that let us offer a prayer of praise and gratitude and beg Him to make 2021 another year filled with His blessings and graces and to put an end to this pandemic.

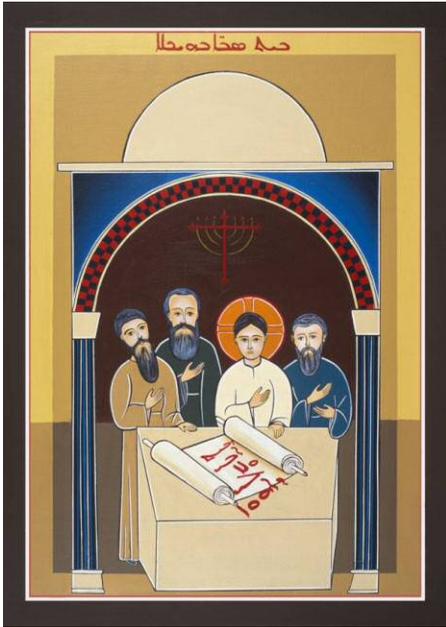
Thank you for all your cooperation, zeal and generosity during this year. May God reward your efforts and grant you His love and peace.

Happy, Blessed, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year to you all



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.

(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful, volume 1)

