

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
7142 Alaska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Phone (202) 291- 5153

www.ololdc.org

Email: OurLadyofLebanonchurchdc@gmail.com

Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

Pastor's personal Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com

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

Sunday of the Prodigal Son, March 7, 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Friday, March 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Friday, March 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Joseph

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Layla Nehme (mother of Houda Fattouche)

Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

Sunday, March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday) at 11:00 o'clock

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.

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for **Sunday, February 28, 2021**

Regular Sunday Collection	\$ 777
Donation by Mail	\$ 750
Individual Contribution	\$ 500
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 1200
Monday, Feb. 22, 2021	\$ 260

Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you all.

Lenten Devotion

Every Friday of Lent, the Divine Liturgy followed by the Benediction of the Holy Cross will take **place at 7:30 p.m.**

FYI

On Monday, March 8, 2021, at 8 p.m. Chorbishop Michael Thomas, Vicar General of the Eparchy of Saint Maron, will lead the eparchial rosary for the intentions of good health, peace and stability of our world. Here are the **Zoom link** information:

<https://tinyurl.com/OFSLR0SARY>

Meeting ID: 883 4965 1080. PASSCODE: rosary

Second Collections

On Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, a second collection will be taken for the Holy Land. The funds collected will be used for the preservation of Christianity in the Middle East and the holy places in Palestine. The Chancery Office will send a part of this collection through the USCCB to the Holy Land and another part is sent directly by our Chancery to the Maronite Eparchy of Haifa.

This collection is requested by the Holy See to be taken on Good Friday in all the Catholic Churches, however, I've moved it to **March 28, Palm Sunday**.

Bishop Gregory Mansour, Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, has authorized a special collection on **Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021**.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, March 14, 2021, Healing of the Paralytic

1 Tim 5:24 - 6:5; Mk 2:1-12

Sunday, March 21, 2021, Healing of the Blind Man

2 Cor 10:1-7; Mk10:46-52

Sunday, March 28, 2021, Palm Sunday

Phil 1:1-13; Jn 12:12-22

Online Donations

Those who prefer to use online donation to financially support Our Lady of Lebanon Church may do so through the parish's website at www.Ololdc.org and look for online donation to the right side of the screen or by using this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHC6>. Thank you for your continued generosity



Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate for Easter flowers, please do so no later than **Sunday, March 28, 2021**. All donations will be acknowledged in **Easter Sunday Bulletin**. Donations could be in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving to God for special favors granted or for whatever

intentions you may have. **Easter lilies are \$20 each**. Please fill out the form below and return to Church Office with check (earmarked Ester Flowers):

Name of Donor:

Number of Lilies:

In Memory (or in honor) of:

The Prodigal Son

During Lent, we constantly reflect upon the theme of our sinfulness and the mercy of God. During the Divine Mysteries, we pray: "many are my sins, but greater is your mercy. When placed on a scale your mercy prevails over the weight of the mountains known only to you. Consider the sin and consider the atonement. The atonement is greater and exceeds the sins." Our sins have been atoned for because of the infinite compassion and mercy of God.

The Gospel of Luke provides us with three parables which speak about the mercy of God: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. The sheep became lost because of its own ignorance. Many times we think of ourselves as intelligent, but out of foolishness we wander away from the sheepfold of the church. Of course, the coin was lost through no fault of its own. Many people become lost through no fault of their own, but are misled and taught to do wrong. This is especially true of the young. The son, however, deliberately left the house of his father. This parable is most rich in explaining the concern of God for our well-being and Jesus himself provides all the details of the story.

Jesus tells of how the son boldly goes to the father and asks for "his portion." Actually, all of the property belongs to the father and the son has no right to any of it. How often do we treat all of the gifts of God as if they were our rightful portion rather than gifts of God? Seeking freedom and pleasure, with money in hand, the son does not concern himself about anybody or anything, he goes far from home so that no one knows what he is doing. He ran off to live among the non-believers where more pleasure could be offered to him, but, he soon went through all of his money. A famine struck the land and he was forced to seek work in tending for the pigs. The Jews considered the pigs as unclean and the one who cared for the pigs as cursed. In the face of physical and moral degradation, he was forced to come to his senses. "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to share, but I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father..."



The father must have been awaiting for the son daily, because he saw him at a distance and ran out to meet him, he embraced and kissed him. He gave him a robe (a sign of honor), a ring (a sign of authority) and shoes (unlike slaves who did not have shoes). The son was treated as if he had never been away.

The son showed courage and humility in his return. It took courage to examine his life and ascertain his pitiful condition, It took humility to admit his mistakes to his father.

The older son represents those who prefer to see a sinner destroyed rather than saved. He is jealous and self-righteous, considering only the sins of his brother and not of his repentance. He even tries to incite the father against his brother. However, the father encouraged him to be happy because his brother who had been lost has been found. How joyful is heaven on the occasion of the return of a sinner to the Father! On some occasions we are able to identify with the prodigal son who has gone astray. Let us imitate his courage and humility and see the forgiveness of the father. At other times, we are able to see ourselves as the older son, righteous and unwilling to forgive the mistakes of another. At times like this, let us listen to the wisdom of the Father and be joyful at the conversion of the sinner.

(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful, Volume 2)