

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
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**Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820**

***6th Sunday of the Resurrection and First Holy Communion  
celebration, Sunday, May 9, 2021***

**Sunday, May 9, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock**

First Communion

**Thursday, May 13, 2021 (Ascension Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.**

Chebel Farid Azar

**Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock**

Youssef El-Khoury (40 Day Anniversary)

**Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock**

Joseph Sandroussi (40 Day Anniversary)

**Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock**

Lilian Khoury

**Sunday, June 6, 2021 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, May 2, 2021**

Regular Sunday Collection	\$ 667
Memorial Contribution	\$ 500
Pledge	\$ 850
Donations by mail	\$ 910
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (OLOL Shrine)	\$ 141

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

***Second Collections***

**May 23, 2021 Catholic Communications Campaign:** Following the norms established by the USCCB, 50% of this collection is sent to them for national Catholic television, radio and other media, and 50% is retained by our Eparchy for the Maronite Voice and any other communication needs the Eparchy may have.

***Holy Day of Obligation***

**Thursday, May 13, 2021, Ascension Thursday**, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Liturgy will be at 7:30 p.m.



*A Happy and Joyful Day to all the  
mothers and mothers to be.*

*May Our Heavenly Mother watch over  
you and guide you in your vocation and  
keep you and us faithful to the "Mother  
Church."*

*Enjoy your well deserved day.*

***FYI***

**In what sense is the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of the Church?**

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church in the order of grace because she gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, the Head of the body which is the Church. When he was dying on the cross Jesus gave his mother to his disciple with the words, "Behold your mother" (John 19:27) (For further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 963 - 964, 973).

**How does the Virgin Mary help the Church?**

After the Ascension of her Son, the Virgin Mary aided the beginning of the Church with her prayers. Even after her Assumption into heaven, she continues to intercede for her children, to be a model of faith and charity for all, and to exercise over them a salutary influence deriving from the superabundant merits of Christ. The faithful see in Mary an image and an anticipation of the resurrection that awaits them and they invoke her as advocate, helper, benefactress and mediatrix. (Further reading: CCC 965-970, 974-975)

**What kind of devotion is directed to the holy Virgin?**

It is a singular kind of devotion which differs essentially from the cult of adoration given only to the Most Holy Trinity. This special veneration directed to Mary finds particular expression in the liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and in Marian prayers such as the holy Rosary which is a compendium of the whole Gospel. (Further reading: CCC 971)

**In what way is the Blessed Virgin Mary the eschatological icon of the Church?**

Looking upon Mary, who is completely holy and already glorified in body and soul, the Church contemplates in her what she herself is called to be on earth and what she will be in the homeland of heaven. (Further reading: CCC 972).

### ***Our Lady of Lebanon***

The first Sunday in May we celebrated the memorial of Our Virgin Mother under the title of “Our Lady of Lebanon.” The Maronite Church has always had a special devotion to the Virgin, as is evidenced by the great number of churches which are dedicated to her both in Lebanon and in our own country. Mary, moreover, plays a special role in the Church’s liturgy: There are numerous *hoosoyeh* dedicated to her, *goley* and hymns which extol her virtues, and constant petitions which beg her intercession. And yet, Mary is always seen in the Maronite liturgy as the Mother of the Lord, the *Theotokos*, in whose womb the Word took flesh:

Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the mighty One who fills heaven and earth.  
Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the ancient One whose name was before the sun was created.

Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the Creator  
who formed Eve and gave her to Adam.

Blessed are you, Mary, in whose womb dwelled in holiness  
the only begotten Son who is one in nature and in Splendor with the Father.

It is because of Mary’s unique position as Mother of the Lord that the Church knows that it can turn to her and seek her intercession with her Son:

O Mother of the Life, petition your divine Son  
to Keep away from us all the effects of evil,  
to preserve us from all animosity  
and to strengthen us on our way.

As we honor the Virgin Mother of the Lord under her title of “Our Lady of Lebanon,” we pray for the land of our ancestors in the faith, for the whole Maronite Church, and for those parishes which are dedicated under her patronage. May Our Lady of Lebanon assist us by her prayers. Amen

*(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful)*

#### **Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, May 16, 2021, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

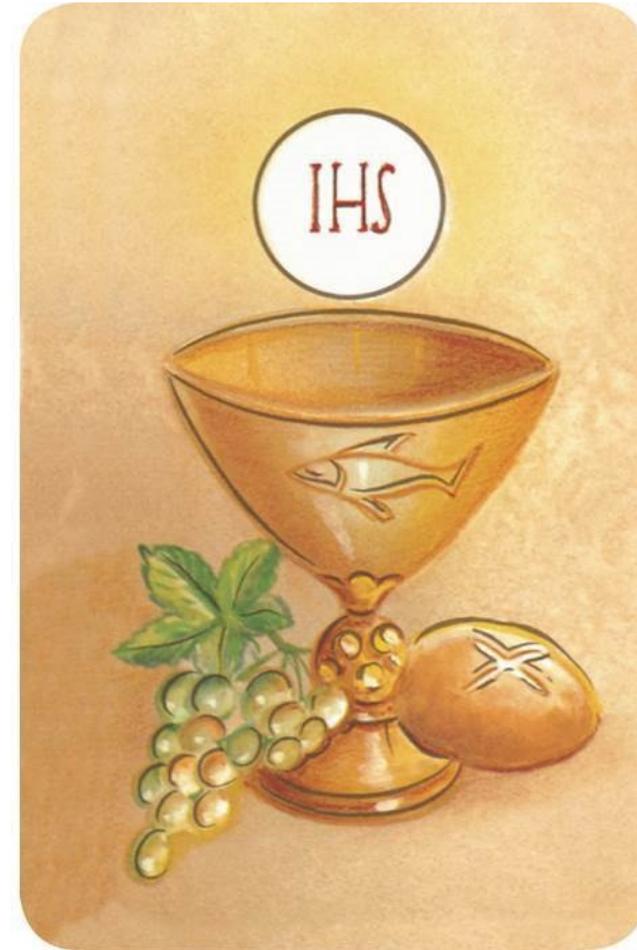
Eph 1:15-23; Jn 13-31-35

**Sunday, May 23, 2021, Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21; Jn 14:15-20

**Sunday, May 30, 2021, Sunday of the Most Holy Trinity**

Rom 11: 25- 36; Mt 28:16-20



Today, we rejoice with **Alexander Barakat, Jay Chebli, Veronica Chahine, Gabriel El-Sayed and Luna Philippe** as they receive their First Holy Communion. May God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon bless them and guide them always.