

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
**7142 Alaska Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20012**  
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www.ololdc.org

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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

Pastor's personal Email: [Gmsebaali@aol.com](mailto:Gmsebaali@aol.com)

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

**December 11, 2022, Revelation to Joseph Sunday**

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock**  
Boulos Yamouni, Fares Zahrah and Mouna Kfoury

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Bishop Stephen Hector Doueih

**Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Friday, December 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock**  
Assaf and Nasra El-Rayes and Haifa and Elie Kassas

**Monday- Friday, December 19 -23, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena

**Saturday, December 24, 2022 (Christmas Eve) at 5:30 p.m.**  
Members of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish, living and deceased

**Sunday, December 25, 2022 (Christmas Day) at 11:00 o'clock**  
Private intention

**Saturday, December 31, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock**

**Reconciliation** (Confession) is available every Sunday between 10:15 and 10:45 a.m. before the Divine 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.

**Ushers for Sunday, December 11, 2022**

Roger Abou Jaoude, Elie Malkoun, Kevin Pitzer and George Choueiry

**Ushers for Sunday, December 18, 2022**

Halim Younes, Gebran Fatouche, Antoine Issa and Joseph Nasr

**Altar Servers for Sunday, December 18, 2022**

George Beasley and Jason Nasr

**Thank you for your generosity**

**Summary of the Collection for Sunday, December 4, 2022**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Regular Collection                       | \$1289 |
| Pledge                                   | \$ 200 |
| Donation by mail                         | \$ 710 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Maintenance) | \$ 222 |

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

**Canned/Non-perishable Food Drive**

On **Sunday, November 27, 2022**, we started a canned/non-perishable food drive to be given to a food shelter for Christmas. To all those interested in donating, there is a box in the social hall to drop off your donations. Please do not bring any perishable items. Thank you for your generosity.

**Parish Christmas Luncheon**

Please join our Christmas Luncheon **on December 18, 2022, following the Sunday liturgy**. Santa and his helpers will pay a visit. Participating children are asked to consider bringing a small gift to Santa (**imperishable food item, no more than \$5 in value**) to donate to a food bank.

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, December 11, 2022, Revelation to Joseph**

Eph 3:1-13; Mt 1:18-25

**Sunday, December 18, 2022, Genealogy Sunday**

Rom 1:1-12; Mt 1:1-17

**Religious Education**

Due to the Christmas holiday, there will be no Sunday School [Religious Education] **December 25 and January 1**. Religious Education will resume on **Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10 o'clock**.

**Liturgical Schedule**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 (Feast of St. Nemtallah El-Hardini):** Divine Liturgy at 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Novena and Divine Liturgy**

★ Thursday- Friday, December 15 -16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.  
★ Saturday, December 17, 2022 (**No Divine Liturgy or Novena**)

★ **Sunday, December 18, 2022**

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

★ **Following the Divine Liturgy and Christmas Novena there will be a parish Christmas Luncheon in the social hall. The Children will present a nativity play**

★ **Monday - Friday, December 19 - 23, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

★ **Saturday, December 24, 2022 (Christmas Eve)**

★ **4:15 p.m. - 4:45:** Confession will be available

★ **5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy**

★ **(Please note there will be No Midnight Liturgy)**

★ **Sunday, December 25, 2022 (Christmas Day)**

★ 11:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 26, 2022 (Felicitation to the Virgin Mary)**

★ Divine Liturgy at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 31, 2022 (New Year's Eve)**

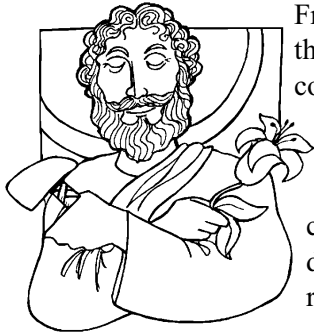
★ **6:30 P.M.** Divine Liturgy

**Friday, January 6, 2023 (Baptism of the Lord)**

★ **7:30 P.M.** Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Epiphany water

## 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 Annunciation 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 Prayer of the Faithful, Volume 1)





# CHRISTMAS

*celebration*

PLEASE JOIN US

Parish Christmas Lunch Following the 11 o'clock  
Divine Liturgy

DEC  
18

*The Sunday School children will present a Nativity  
play and Santa will make his annual visit*

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