

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, January 7, 2024, First Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock
Souriya Youssef Noujaim Karam (40 Day Anniversary)

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock
Alice Gebara and Boutros Abboud Zoghbi

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock
Marie Fares Nasr (mother of George and Claude BouAbboud) 40 day anniversary

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock

Thursday, February 8, 2024 (Eve of St. Maron Feast Day)
Divine Liturgy at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 11:00 o'clock

Monday, February 12, 2024 (Ash Monday) at 7:30 p.m.

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, January 7, 2024

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony ElKhouri and Mark Malkoun

Ushers for Sunday, January 14, 2024

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley and Rafah Elias

Altar Servers for Sunday, January 14, 2024

George Beasley and Marek Oszwaldowski

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for Sunday, December 31, 2023

Regular collection \$ 879

Pledge \$ 200

Donation by mail \$ 250

Individual Contribution \$ 1100

New Year's Collection: \$ 440

Pledge \$ 200

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

Sunday School

Religious Education Program (Sunday School) will resume on **January 7, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock.**

March for Life

Bishop Gregory Mansour invites you to join fellow Maronites from across the United States to march for the unborn, and to witness to the sanctity and dignity of human life from the womb to the tomb. The **2024 March for Life** will take place on Friday January 19, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 7, 2024 (First Sunday after Epiphany)

2 Cor 10:1-11; Jn 1:29-34

Sunday, January 14, 2024 (Second Sunday after Epiphany)

2 Cor 4:5-15; Jn 1:35-42

Sunday, January 21, 2024 (Sunday of the Priests)

1Tim 4:6-16; Lk 12:42-48

Second Collection

On Sunday, **January 28, 2024**, 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.

Holy Hour and Eucharistic Adoration

Starting on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** and every last Sunday of each month following the Divine Liturgy, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for private prayer and meditation. We tried to hold the Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on a week night, but it was not convenient for many.

Pastoral Council

We are in the process of establishing a new Pastoral Council. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please let me know. We need seven persons but they cannot be of the same immediate family.

- ◆ The role of the Pastoral Council is to cooperate with the pastor in all aspects of the pastoral life of the parish. It is to advise the pastor on pastoral matters, but it is not in any way to be construed as a decision-making body
- ◆ The members of the Pastoral Council are to be appointed by the pastor, for a determined period of time and they **must be active and supporting** members of the parish
- ◆ All members of the Pastoral Council must maintain the confidentiality of the deliberations of the Council, especially with respect to privacy and personal reputations.
- ◆ Meetings of the Pastoral Council are to be held in the parish facilities
- ◆ The final decision should be made by the end of this month. Thank you.

Ushers

As the number of our ushers and greeters dwindles, we are in need of a few more people to serve in this capacity. Please let me or Mr. Halim Younes know if you are willing to serve as an usher and the schedule will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Thank you.

Epiphany of the Lord



In the Eastern Church the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is known by two names: Epiphany and Theophany. The Greek word, “Epiphany” means “ a manifestation” or “ an apparition” and the word, “Theophany”, means “ an appearance of God.” On this day we celebrate the appearance or manifestation of Christ among us as God’s Son.

The feast of Epiphany was first celebrated in the East around the third century and eventually was adopted by the Western Church. In the Eastern Churches the celebration of the Epiphany originally centered on both the Birth of our Lord and his Baptism. When the later Western feast of Christmas was introduced into the East, Christmas became the feast of the Birth of our Lord and the Epiphany, that of his Baptism.

The feast of Epiphany is intimately connected with the mystery of our Lord’s birth. The Child who was born for us and the Son who was given to us is manifested before us to be the Son of the Most High. Christ begins his public life with his baptism by John in the

Jordan river. At his Baptism Christ is seen as the fulfillment of John’s preaching: He is the Messiah and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, The Father and the Holy Spirit are witnesses to Christ for he is the beloved Son of the Father and upon him the Spirit rest. Thus at the baptism of the Lord we have not only an epiphany or manifestation of Christ as God’s Son, but also a Theophany or manifestation of the Holy Trinity -Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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 the day. Originally, the mystery of Baptism was celebrated on this feast and the waters blessed were those of baptism.

Today, we celebrate the manifestation or epiphany of the Trinity at the baptism of Christ as well as the manifestation of the glory of God in the person of the Lord come into the world, that is to say, the manifestation of Christ, the Word of God, among us. Let us then call to mind the grace of God who has appeared for the salvation of all, and thank him for the baptism through which we have been begotten in the Spirit and through which we have put on Christ and become children of the Father.

(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful)

