

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor

Pastor's personal Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com

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

Sunday, January 8, 2023, First Sunday after Epiphany

Friday, January 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Faten Abou Chabke

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Georgette ElAlam Frangieh

Sunday, January 15, 2023 a 11:00 o'clock

Alice Gebara

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Khalil and George Ghanem

Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. (Feast of St. Maron)

Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

For the Parish

Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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 15, 2023

Halim Younes, Anthony Beasley, John Nadder & Fawzi Abouchabke

Ushers for Sunday, January 22, 2023

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

Altar Servers for Sunday, January 15, 2023

Matteo Abou Jaoude and Marek Oszwaldowski

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for Sunday, January 1, 2023

December 31, 2022 \$ 66

January 1, 2023 \$700

Pledge \$200

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

Religious Education

Sunday School [Religious Education] will resume on **Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10 o'clock.**

Visit of Bishop Simon Faddoul

Sunday, January 15, 2023, His Excellency Bishop Simon Faddoul, Maronite Bishop of Nigeria and Africa, will visit our parish and celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Following the Divine Liturgy, a **luncheon reception** will be held in the social hall. All are welcome to attend and meet and greet Bishop Faddoul.

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 2023 March for Life will take place on Friday January 20, 2023. in Washington, DC.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 8, 2023, First Sunday After Epiphany

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

Sunday, January 15, 2023, 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

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

Sunday, January 22, 2023; 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Gal 3:23-29; Jn 3:1-16

Second Collection

On Sunday, **January 22, 2023**, 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 contribution statements** will be mailed before the end 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.

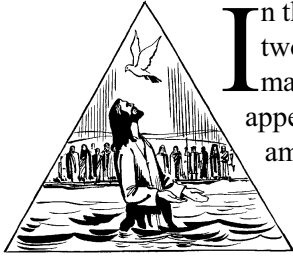
Contribution Envelopes

We have been informed by the printing company that due to technical difficulties and chain supply disruption, the delivery of the contribution envelopes has been delayed until towards the end of January. If you donate in cash, please use a white envelope and write your name on it so we can give you proper credits. Thank you.

Saint Maron Feast Day Luncheon

Sunday, February 12, 2023, Saint Maron Feast Day annual luncheon will take place following the Divine Liturgy. Please save the date and plan to join us as we celebrate the legacy of our Father, Saint Maron. To make your reservation, please get in touch with Gebran Fattouche.

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, Volume 1)

