

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, July 3, 2022, 5th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday, July 3, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, July 10, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock
Nancy Karam (Memorial Liturgy)

Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock
Alice Zoghbi Gebara

Sunday, July 24, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, July 31, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock
Paul Mazloom

Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock

Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:30 (Feast of the Assumption)

Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 11:00 o'clock

Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

Sunday, August 28, 2022 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, July 10, 2022

Halim Younes, Anthony Beasley, John Nadder and Fawzi Abouchabke

Ushers for Sunday, July 17, 2022

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

Ushers for Sunday, July 24, 2022

Halim Younes, Gebran Fatouche, Antoine Issa and Joseph Nasr

Ushers for Sunday, July 31, 2022

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony ElKhouri and Mark Malkoun

Ushers for Sunday, August 7, 2022

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley, Rafah Elias and Salah Dagher

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for **Sunday, June 26, 2022**

Regular Collection \$ 928

Donation by mail \$ 300

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 \$ 120

2nd collection (for the Holy Father) \$ 119

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

Sunday School Registration

Following The Divine Liturgy, Janine Helou will be taking registration for Sunday School (Religious Education). The Sunday School, open to all young people from pre-school to high school, will resume in-person in the middle of September. We are also in a desperate need for a few **good men and women** to teach religious education and help us pass on our Maronite Catholic faith and traditions to our younger ones. Thank you for your willingness to help us.

First Communion

First Communion is given at the end of the **second grade**. However, before a child may receive his/her First Communion, they must have completed first grade in the religious education

program. If a child completed first grade religious education in a different church or school, a **letter from the church or school testifying to this effect is required.**

Liturgical Schedule

Msgr. George Sebaali will be out of the country from July 17 through August 12. In his absence, **Msgr. Peter Azar**, Rector of the Seminary, will celebrate all the scheduled liturgies. If there is any emergency please call Msgr. Azar at (202) 723-8831 (office) or on his cell number at (978) 996 -2600.

Happy 4th of July



The Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day or July 4th, has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. (History.com)

Happy Fourth of July everyone.

The Three Massabki Brothers

On July 10, The Maronite Church celebrates the feast of the three Blessed Massabki Martyrs. The Massabki brothers were from a noble Christian family, they lived in Damascus in the nineteenth century and were known for their piety, generosity and Christian Values.

The Massabki brothers were 3 of 6 children, Francis, Abdel El –Maoti, Raphael, (the three martyrs) Abdullah (who later becomes a priest), Mariam and Martha.

They lived in a time of great persecution of Christians. There was much political and religious tension for Maronites and other Christians in both Damascus and Mount Lebanon. On 9 July 1860 a fire broke out through the Christian area of Damascus. Many Maronite families took refuge in a Franciscan monastery along with the Massabki brothers and the Superior Father Emmanuel. Father Emmanuel closed the Monastery and called everyone to the church where they prayed and made their confession and received communion.

While everyone took refuge on the roof, Francis one of the Massabki brothers remained kneeling at the feet of the Sorrowful Mother. Moments later the church was attacked, The Superior Father was captured and told the attackers that he would lead them to the treasure inside the church. He proceeded to the altar, where he lit the candles and took out the Eucharist from the tabernacle. Father Emmanuel was then put to death.

The attackers then noticed Francis kneeling in prayer and recognized him. They told him that the *Sheikh* had sent them to save him and his family from death on the condition that you deny your faith and convert. Francis answered them, "*Sheikh* Abdullah can take my money, he can also take my life; but my faith no one can make me deny. I am a Christian and on the faith of Christ, I will die." Francis was then put to death.

The attackers then confronted Abdel El –Maoti in the convent yard and also asked him to renounce his faith to escape death, He refused and was also martyred.

Raphael who was hiding inside the convent was offered the same as his brothers, but also refused and was also martyred. According to witnesses, the three Massabki brothers were buried in the convent along with the eight martyr priests and others who had sought refuge there. On October 7, 1926, His Holiness Pius XI proclaimed the beatification of the three brothers.

The Massabki brothers are great role models for Maronite families. Although they were rather wealthy they remained faithful and humble. We pray, that these great Maronites will soon be recognized amongst our Maronite Saints. We ask for their intercession to help us live our lives as honest Christians, and we pray for all those who are being persecuted around the world. May they find refuge and comfort in you Lord. Amen (*Livingmaronites.com*)



The three Massabki Brothers