

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**  
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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

July 9 - August 6, 2023

Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, July 16, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. (Feast of the Assumption)  
For the Parish

Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

Sunday, August 27, 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, July 9, 2023**

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

#### **Ushers for Sunday, July 16, 2023**

Halim Younes, Gebran Fatouche, Antoine Issa and Joseph Nasr

#### **Ushers for Sunday, July 23, 2023**

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony ElKhouri and Mark Malkoun

#### **Ushers for Sunday, July 30, 2023**

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley and Rafah Elias

#### **Ushers for Sunday, August 6, 2023**

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

### *Thank you for your generosity*

#### **Summary of the Collection for Sunday, July 2, 2023**

Regular collection	\$1035
Pledge	\$1000
Donation by mail	\$ 770

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

### *Sunday School Registration*

**A full parish religion class today means a thriving parish community for generations to come**

**Every Sunday, 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 the middle of September.

### *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*

**On July 11, 2023**, Msgr. George Sebaali will be out of the country. 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.

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CHURCH

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2023 LEBANESE FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023, NOON - 10 PM**

Who's invited? Everyone!

What? Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church Annual Lebanese Festival

Where? 7142 Alaska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

When? September 16, 2023, noon - 10 pm

7142 Alaska Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

Please consider offering your time and talents to this worthy cause. To express your interest in volunteering, please contact Maroun Mezher at 703 501 5452 or Dolly Gebeily at 301 802 2538.

### **Requirements for Sponsors at Baptism**

The Law requires at least **ONE** sponsor for baptism, and provides criteria for being a good sponsor.

- ★ He or she must be a **practicing Catholic**. This may be attested to by a certificate from the sponsor's proper parish pastor;
- ★ He or she must have been fully initiated into the Church (have received all three initiation Mysteries)
- ★ Must be living a good, Catholic life and be free of excommunication.
- ★ Not the father, mother or spouse (of the candidate), and be at least **18 years old**. It is the practice of the Maronite Church to administer the Mystery of Confirmation at the time of Baptism.

### ***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*