

**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**

**March 19, 2023; Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic**

**Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock**

- Melhem Halim Nemr (40 Day Anniversary)

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

- Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

**Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

- Feast of St. Rafqa. Divine Liturgy and Blessing with her relics

**Friday, March 24, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

- Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

**Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock**

- Youssef El-Khoury and Toufic Aoun

**Friday, March 31, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

- Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

**Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.**

- Elham Eljor (Claire Abou Chabke's sister) 40 Day Anniversary

**Sunday, April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday) at 11:00 o'clock**

- Divine Liturgy and Palm Sunday Procession with Palms and candles

### ***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, March 26, 2023***

Halim Younes, Anthony Beasley, John Nadder and Fawzi Abouchabke

### ***Ushers for Sunday, April 2, 2023***

Halim Younes, Gebran Fattouche, Antoine Issa, Roger Abou Jaoude, Elie Malkoun, Kevin Pitzer and George Choueiry

### ***Altar Servers for Sunday, March 26, 2023***

Mateo Abou Jaoude and Marek Oszwaldowski

### ***Thank you for your generosity***

#### **Summary of the Collection for Sunday, March 12, 2023**

Regular collection	\$1221
Donation by mail	\$1550
Pledge	\$2500
March 10, 2023	\$ 148
Coffee Hour/Friday meals	\$ 178

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

### ***Lenten Services***



**Every Friday of Lent** we will have a Divine Liturgy and the Benediction with the Holy Cross. Following the Liturgy a **simple lenten meal** will be served in the hall.

### ***Marriage Banns***

The Marriage Banns are announced for the second time between **Matthew David Berglund** and **Alexandria Aida BouHarb**. Anyone knowing why they should not be joined in marriage is bound in conscience to make it known to the priest. Thank you.

The Marriage Banns are announced for the first time between **David Lundberg** and **Marie Sonia Skaff**. Anyone knowing why they should not be joined in marriage is bound in conscience to make it known to the priest. Thank you

### ***Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal***

The Bishop's **Annual Lenten Appeal for 2023** started on **Ash Monday, [February 20]**, and will last until Easter Sunday. Please send in your contribution, earmarked Bishop's Appeal 2023 before Easter Sunday.

Here is a link to a video promoting the Appeal, as well as a link for the Appeal's webpage: <https://youtube.com/shorts/N5sEkbyB82U> ; <http://www.stmaron.org/lenten-appeal>

### ***Second Collection***

**On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**, a second collection will be taken for the Holy Land. The funds collected will be used for the preservation of Christianity in the Middle East and the holy places in Palestine. This collection is requested by the Holy See to be taken on Good Friday in all the Catholic Churches, however, due to the solemnity of the Burial of the Lord, I've moved it to **April 2, 2023**, Palm Sunday.

### ***Scripture Readings***

**Sunday, March 19, 2023, Healing of the Paralytic**

1 Tim 5:24-6:5; Mk 2:1-12

**Sunday, March 26, 2023; Healing of the Blind Man**

2 Cor 10: 1-7; Mk 10:46 -52

**Sunday, April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday**

2 Cor 10: 1-7; Mk 10:46-52



Following the **Easter Sunday Liturgy on April 9, 2023**, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 12 years old.

### ***Sunday School***

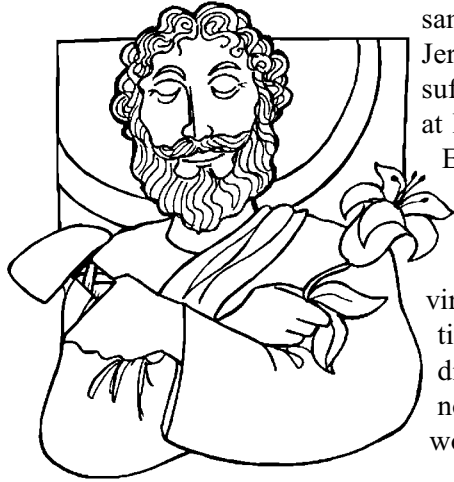
Please note that due to the Easter celebrations, there will be No Religious Education (Sunday School) **on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 and on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 10 a.m.

## *Saint Joseph, the Spouse of Mary*

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 Announcement 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).

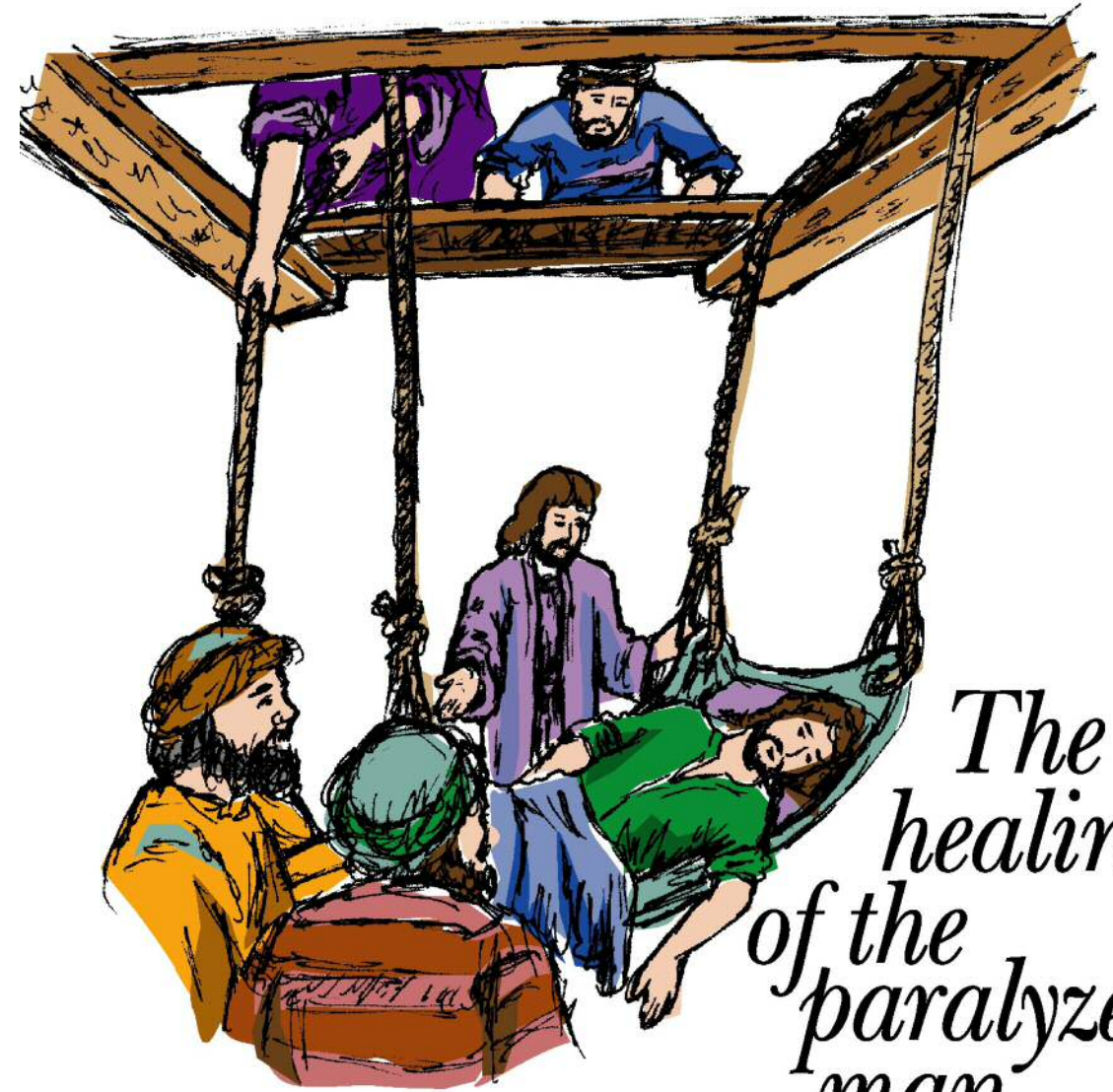
When Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, he could not understand how something like this could have happened. Mary continued to be modest, kind and compassionate. Saint Jerome describes Joseph's confusion. *Joseph knowing the chastity of Mary and admiring what happened, hid in a silence the mystery 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)



*The  
healing  
of the  
paralyzed  
man*



**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

Palm Sunday Liturgy and Procession with the Palms at 11:00 o'clock



**Monday, April 3, 2023**

**9:00 A.M.:** Divine Liturgy  
**7:30 P.M.:** Special Service of *Coming to the Harbor*

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

**7:30 P.M.:** Divine Liturgy and Benediction with the Holy Cross

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

**7:30 P.M.:** Rite of the Lamp, anointing with holy oil and Divine Liturgy

**Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023 (Thursday of the Mysteries)**

**7:30 P.M.** Divine Liturgy with Washing of the Feet  
**9:00 P.M.** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for private prayers and meditation



**Great Friday of Crucifixion (April 7, 2023)**

**9:00 A.M.:** Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts  
**7:30 P.M.:** Burial of the Lord

**Saturday of the Light (April 8, 2023)**

Prayer of Forgiveness at 11:30 A.M.

**Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 8, 2023, Divine Liturgy at 6:00 P.M.**  
 (Please note there will be no midnight Liturgy)



**Easter Sunday: 11:00 A.M.:** Divine Liturgy

(Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 12 years old will take place following the Divine Liturgy on **Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**)