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Msgr. George M. Sebaali, Pastor Pastor's personal Email: Gmsebaali@aol.com Pastor's cell number: (804) 240-9820

May 7, 2023; Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

For the Parish

Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel's birthday

Sunday, May 14, 2023, at 11:00 o'clock

For all the mothers (living and deceased) and for the First Communion children, their teachers and their families

Thursday, May 18, 2023 (Ascension Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. Vincenzo Spallino

Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 11:00 o'clock

Laurice Hajjar, (40 Day Anniversary)

Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

Sunday, May 28, 2023 (Pentecost Sunday), at 11:00 o'clock Hanaa Khoury (40 Day Anniversary)

Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 11:00 o'clock

Nancy Karam

Sunday, June 11, 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, May 7, 2023

Halim Younes, Gebran Fattouche, Antoine Issa and Joseph Nasr

Ushers for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony ElKhouri and Mark Malkoun

Altar Servers for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Matteo Abou Jaoude and Jason Nasr

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for Sunday, April 30, 2023

Regular collection \$1371 Pledge \$1000 Donation by mail \$300 April 24, 2023 \$160 Memorial (Laurice Hajjar) \$1880

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

Second Collections

On Sunday, May 7, 2023, a second collection will be taken for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Ohio.

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, a second collection will be taken for the Catholic Communications Campaign. Following the norms established by the USCCB, 50% of this collection is sent to them for national Catholic television, radio and other media, and 50% is retained by our Eparchy for the Maronite Voice and any other communication needs the Eparchy may have. Thank you for your generosity.

Scripture Readings

Sunday, May 7, 2023 (Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon)

Eph 2: 1-10; Jn 21: 15-19

Sunday, May 14, 2023 (6th Sunday of the Resurrection)

Rom 10: 1-13; Luke 24: 36-48

Sunday, May 21, 2023 (7th Sunday of the Resurrection)

Eph 1: 15-23; Jn 13: 31-35

Marriage Banns

The Marriage Banns are announced for the third time between **Jad Boustany and Louisa Jean Yemc**. Anyone knowing why they should not be joined in the Sacrament of Marriage is bound in conscience to make it known to the priest.

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, May 18, 2023 (Ascension Thursday) is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy will take place at 7:30 p.m.

Religious Education Program

The religious education program for 2023 will end on **Sunday**, **May 14.** A big thank you to the parents and the teachers for all their efforts and we hope to start again next September.

First Communion Class

Clea Abou Jaoude, Matthew Bitar, Pia Maria Chawah, Jonas Chebli, Helena Marie Dawaliby, Audriana El Kassis, Miren EL Khoury, Elias Philippe, Layla Ramia and Sarah Rohayem will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

A big Thank You to you all for the overwhelming kindness and generosity you showed me on the occasion of my 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. May God continue to bless you and all yours with much peace and joy and reward your dedication so Our Lady of

Lebanon Church will always remain a beacon of light, source of hope and a true reflection of the love of Christ.

FYI

Why does the Church have the power to forgive sins?

The Church has the mission and the power to forgive sins because Christ himself has conferred it upon her: "Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23). [For further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church "CCC" # 981-983, 986-987.



Our Lady of Lebanon

The first Sunday in May we celebrate the memorial of Our Virgin Mother under the title of "Our Lady of Lebanon." The Maronite Church has always had a special devotion to the Virgin, as is evidenced by the great number of churches which are dedicated to her both in Lebanon and in our own country. Mary, moreover, plays a special role in the Church's liturgy: There are numerous *hoosoyeh* dedicated to her, *qoley* and hymns which extol her virtues, and constant petitions which beg her intercession. And yet, Mary is always seen in the Maronite liturgy as the Mother of the Lord, the *Theotokos*, in whose womb the Word took flesh:



Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the mighty One who fills heaven and earth.

Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the ancient One whose name was before the sun was created.

Hail Mary! In your virginity, you became the mother of the Creator

who formed Eve and gave her to Adam.

Blessed are you, Mary, in whose womb dwelled in holiness

the only begotten Son who is one in nature and in Splendor with the Father.

It is because of Mary's unique position as Mother of the Lord that the Church knows that it can turn to her and seek her intercession with her Son:

O Mother of the Life, petition your divine Son to Keep away from us all the effects of evil, to preserve us from all animosity and to strengthen us on our way.

As we honor the Virgin Mother of the Lord under

her title of "Our Lady of Lebanon," we pray for the land of our ancestors in the faith, for the whole Maronite Church, and for those parishes which are dedicated under her patronage. May Our Lady of Lebanon assist us by her prayers. Amen

(Maronite Prayer of the Faithful)

