Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church 7142 Alaska Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20012 Phone (202) 291- 5153

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

November 21, 2021, Announcement to Mary

Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Georgie and Theresia Abou Chabke and Moussa El-Jor

Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy in honor of St. Sharbel

Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Alice Zischkau

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Deceased members of the Zailah and Saade families

Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Mona Zahrah Khfoury

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock

Fahed and Jamileh Nasr

Friday, December 24, 2021 (Christmas Eve) at Midnight

Members of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish, living and deceased

Saturday, December 25, 2021 (Christmas Day) at 11:00 o'clock

Private intention

Sunday, December 26, 2021 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, November 28, 2021

Roger Abou Jaoude, Elie Malkoun, Kevin Pitzer & George Choueiry Ushers for Sunday, December 5, 2021

Halim Younes, Gebran Fatouche, Antoine Issa and Joseph Nasr (If you will not be attending the Liturgy on that day, please get in

(If you will not be attending the Liturgy on that day, please get it touch with Halim Younes to find a replacement.

Altar Servers for Sunday, November 28, 2021

George Beasley and Mateo Abou Jaoude

Thank you for your generosity

Summary of the Collection for Sunday, November 14, 2021

Regular Sunday Collection \$ 1670 Pledge \$ 300 2nd Collection (Patriarchal charity) \$ 1123

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

Sunday School

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Sunday School on **November 28, 2021.** Religious Education will resume on **December 5, 2021**, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m.



Scripture Readings

Sunday, November 28, 2021, Visitation to Elizabeth Eph 1:1-14; LK 1:39-45 Sunday, December 5, 2021, Birth of John the Baptizer Gal 4:21-5:1; Lk 1:57-66

Parish Christmas Luncheon

Please join our Christmas Luncheon on December 19, 2021, following the Sunday liturgy. Santa and his helpers will pay a visit. Participating children are asked to consider bringing a small gift to Santa (imperishable food item, no more than \$5 in value) to donate to a food bank.

Save the Date, New Year's Eve Celebration

The New Year celebration will take place on Friday, Decembe 31, 2021 at Martin Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Dr., Greenbelt, MD. For additional information and tickets, please see the flyer on the next page or contact: Gebran Fattouch: 443-600-9484; Gisele Azar: 703-470-6328; or Jano Nicolas: 301-537-7990.

Liturgical Season of Announcements

On November 12, 2021, the Maronite Catholic Church worldwide began preparing for the Birth of the Son of God, for we began the Season of Announcements. The Sundays of Announcements are 6 in number (Announcement to Zachariah; Announcement to Mary; the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth; the Birth of John; the Revelation to Joseph; and Genealogy Sunday).

Each of these Sundays announces and prepares for the Incarnation. From the Announcement to Zachariah to Genealogy Sunday, news of the Lord's birth is given to various individuals. The final announcement however, is made by the angels to all creation at the Christmas Eve Liturgy "Glory to God in the Highest and peace and good hope to all men. Behold, a savior has been born for you in Bethlehem who is the Messiah and Lord."

May we have a spiritual and fruitful preparation for the Nativity of the Son of God. May the Star of Bethlehem guide us to the Manger where we will find a Baby wrapped in Swaddling clothes and offer Him our hopes and dreams, our failure and our success. May His Birth bring abundant peace to our families, the Church and the world.

Announcement to Mary

The second Sunday of the Season of the Announcement commemorates the announcement to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God. The feast actually recalls two aspects of the same salvific mystery: the incarnation of the Divine Word and the motherhood of Mary. For this reason, the feast was given different names according to the aspect which was being emphasized. With time, the incarnation of the Son of God was stressed on the feast of the Birth of our Lord and today's feast (Sunday of the Announcement to Mary) became a Marian feast.

In addition to this second Sunday of the Season of Announcement, the Maronite Church celebrates the Annunciation on March 25th. The feast of the Annunciation appeared in the West, in Italy, during the fifth century, and was eventually adopted by the Maronite Church.

This great announcement to Mary, the fulfillment of the promises of the prophets, took place in the humble home of Mary in Nazareth. At the time, Mary was probably between fourteen and sixteen. Again it was Gabriel, the messenger of the end times, who brought the wonderful message to the young girl.

In many ways, the announcement to Mary can be compared to the announcement to Zechariah. Both apparitions took place during the day and both Zechariah and Mary were to be found at prayer.

Mary, the Queen, is speaking with her Lord in her own home. It was necessary for Zechariah to go to the Temple and encounter the Lord in the holy of holies. When the angel appeared to Zechariah, he was described as "standing." During the announcement to Mary, the angel greets her with signs of respect, gives her the good news and departs. She is not described as "standing." The angel himself praises Mary, "You have found favor with God."

In the name of all humanity, Mary consented to be the instrument through which salvation was to be brought into the world. One recalls Eve, who consented to bring darkness and sin into the world. With Mary, the New Eve, salvation history is at a turning point. She is to be the "Mother of Light."

(Prayer of the Faithful, Volume 1)



As we begin to look forward to Thanksgiving, let me take a moment to say how grateful *we* are for your support, dedication and love for your Church.

A Happy and Enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday to all of you. May you always SEE your blessings and give thanks to your Heavenly Father.

