

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, INC**  
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**Msgr. George M Sebaali, Pastor**

**Pastor's personal email: Gmsebaali@aol.com**

**Pastor's Cell number: (804) 240 -9820**

***Sunday, December 28, 2025, Sunday after Christmas***

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 11:00 o'clock**

Rita Wehbe Tabib (40 Day anniversary)

**Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (New Year's Eve)**

Divine Liturgy

**Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

Michel Gebara (40 Day Anniversary) and Alice Zoghby Gebara

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

Faten Fawzi AbouChabke

**Sunday January 11, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

Andre Younes

Habib Michael El Kaddissy (40 Day anniversary)

**Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

Abla Wakim Amuoni (40 Day anniversary)

**Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy in honor of Saint Sharbel

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

Aline Feghali Yates (40 Day anniversary)

***Ushers for Sunday, December 28, 2025***

Fawzi Abouchabke, Maroun Mezher, Tony El-Khoury and Mark Malkoun

***Ushers for Sunday, January 4, 2026***

Halim Younes, Victor Beasley, and Antoine Issa

***Ushers for Sunday, January 11, 2026***

Roger AbouJaoude, Kevin Pitzer, and George Choueiry

***Altar Servers for Sunday, December 28, 2025***

Mateo AbouJaoude, Jacob El Khoueiry, and Michael Fawaz

***Altar Servers for Sunday, January 4, 2026***

Marek Oszwakdowski, Michael Fawaz, Jason and Chady Nasr

***Thank you for your generosity***

**Summary of the Collection for Sunday, December 21, 2025**

Regular Collection \$2243

Pledge \$1600

Donation by Mail \$1500

End of the year contribution \$2000

Visitors' contribution \$ 220

**Christmas Collections**

Regular Collection \$2650

Donation by Mail \$ 50

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

***Sunday School***

Due to the Christmas and New Year holiday, there will be **no Sunday School on December 28, 2025** and **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. Religious Education will resume on **Sunday, January 11, 2026** at 10:00 a.m.

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 ( Sunday after Christmas)**

Rev 21:9-10, 21-27; Mt 2:1-12

**Thursday, January 1, 2026 (Circumcision of the Lord)**

Eph 2:11-22; Lk 2:21

**Sunday, January 4, 2026 (Finding in the Temple)**

Heb 7:11-19; Lk 2:41-52

***Holy Days of Obligation***

♦ **Thursday, January 1, 2026**, Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgies will take place on **Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** and on **Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock**

♦ **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Epiphany) is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Divine Liturgy and blessing of the Epiphany Water will take place at 7:30 p.m.

***Second Collection***

**On Sunday, January 25, 2026**, a second collection will be taken for the Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities (this collection combines the four USCCB collections: Central & Eastern Europe, the Church in Latin America, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Operation Rice Bowl which is a part of CRS). The total is divided evenly. All funds collected will be forwarded to the Chancery for transfer to the USCCB.

***FYI***

Please when you come to Church, do not leave any valuable items visible in your cars and make sure your vehicles are locked. It seems that there are someone or a few people who are eager to break your windows and clean your vehicles of any valuable items visible to them. It happened on **Sunday, December 21** either during the Liturgy or during the Christmas luncheon. Please be careful.

***March for Life***

Bishop Gregory Mansour invites you to join fellow Maronites from across the United States to march for the unborn, and to witness to the sanctity and dignity of human life from the womb to the tomb. The 2026 March for Life will take place on **Friday January 23, 2026**, in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your generous participation in our Christmas Tree Charitable Drive to benefit the Catholic Charities. Over 45 stars were picked and all donations were delivered to the Catholic Charities. The Canned food items will be delivered to Saint Lucia's Food Pantry this weekend. May God bless your generosity and reward you.



### ***Praises of the Mother of God***

(The day after Christmas is the feast of the Praises of the Mother of God.) In Palestine at the time of Jesus, the birth of a boy was the cause of great joy. When the time of the birth approached, friends and musicians gathered at the house. When the birth of a boy was announced, everyone was jubilant and broke into song.



It is still the custom in the Middle East to rejoice on the occasion of the birth of a son. Friends and relatives hurry to congratulate the happy parents. Of course, such a celebration did not occur for Jesus, who was born in a manger, far away from friends. The angels themselves replaced the friends and musicians.

It was the custom of the early Church to celebrate not only the birth of the saint, but also the feast of the parents of that saint. After the birth of Mary, the feast of Anne and Joachim is celebrated. Therefore, the Eastern celebration of the Praises of the Mother of God is probably very ancient. It probably dates back to the time of the discussion concerning the title, Theotokos, since the feast commemorates only Mary and not Joseph.

Mary is praised for the virtues already manifested in the Sundays preceding the Feast of the Birth of our Lord: her faith, her love and charity, her zeal, her silent trust in the Lord, and of course, her virginity both before and after the birth of Jesus.

The notion of Mary's perpetual virginity is an important topic for the Aramaic fathers. Ephrem wrote of Mary as a true mother, but a mother whose virginity remains intact. For James of Serugh, it was

blasphemous to assert that Mary did not remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus. However, the principal object of the feast is Mary's pre-eminence as the Mother of God. It is from this that her greatness flows. In praising Mary, the Mother of God, Ephrem says: "To replace the bitter fruit which Ever plucked from the vine, Mary gave to mankind her sweet fruit. The virginal vine yielded a cluster of grapes whose wine will bring consolation to those who weep. Mary says, come to me you wise and intelligent heralds of the Spirit, you prophets. . . you farmers who sowed and slept in hope, arise and exult at the sight of the harvest of fruit. Look in my arms, I hold the Wheat of Life, which gives bread to the hungry and satisfies the needy. Rejoice with me because I have received the Sheaf of Joy." For Ephrem, the Eucharist is nothing other than another aspect of the Incarnation; it is the same reality under a different form.

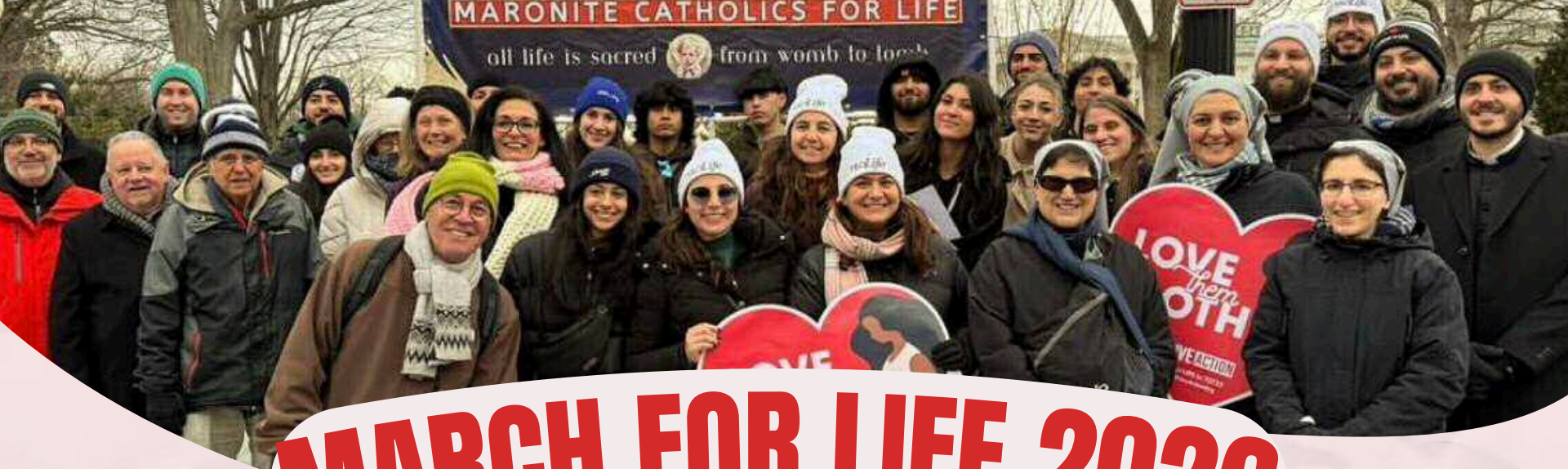
On the Feast of the Praises of the Mother of God, the Church praises Mary, the New Bark, loaded with a treasure, sailing with the richness upon the waves of the sea. (*Maronite Divine Office, Volume 1*)

BLESS US  
in this new year, Lord.



My future is in  
**YOUR  
HANDS.**  
PSALM 31:15





# MARCH FOR LIFE 2026

*Life* WHY WE MARCH

**JAN 22 - 25 WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## Thursday January 22

**5:00 PM** Evening vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

## Friday January 23

**11:00 AM** Meet at Starbucks for the March

**5:00 PM** Dinner and Talk with Father Boutros and Deacon Jacob at the Seminary Library

## Saturday January 24

**10:30 AM** Maronite Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

**TBD** Social Outing

## Sunday January 25

**11:00 AM** Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of Lebanon

**12:30 PM** Brunch at the Parish Hall

**2:00 PM** Tour Monuments



Questions? Contact [mya.eparchystmaron@gmail.com](mailto:mya.eparchystmaron@gmail.com) or the Eparchy Family and Sanctity of Life Office (540)520-1679  
Hotel block can be found at [myaeparchystmaron.org/myaevents](http://myaeparchystmaron.org/myaevents)

\*Schedule is subject to change