

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral
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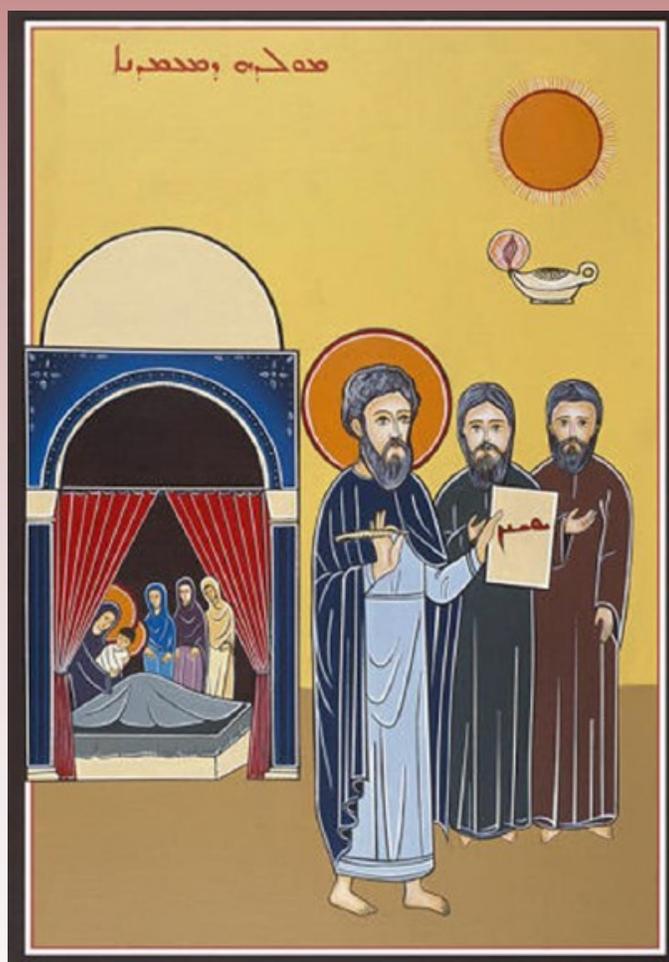
(910) 988-2421

The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop

The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector

The Reverend Chuck VanHeusen, Assistant Rector

Subdeacon Norbert Vogl



**SUNDAY OF THE BIRTH
OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist
December 7th, 2025**

Sun., Dec. 7	Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist / St. Ambrose 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11:30 am for Michel Hitti by Antoine Hitti
Mon., Dec. 8	10 am Divine Liturgy of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Tues., Dec. 9	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Francis of Paola
Wed., Dec. 10	10 am Divine Liturgy Pope St. Miltiades
Thu., Dec. 11	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Daniel the Stylite
Fri., Dec. 12	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Spyridon the Wonderworker / Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sat., Dec. 13	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Lucy
Sun., Dec. 14	Sunday of the Revelation to Joseph / St. Nematallah El-Hardini 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11:30 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners

Financial Standing November 2025

Ordinary Income

- ◆ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$9,851.00**
- ◆ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers**\$38,390.41**
- Total Ordinary Income: \$48,241.41**

Ordinary Expenses

- ◆ Payroll, Gas, Electricity, Building Insurance and Medical Insurance, Leasing Equipment, TV, Phone, Internet, Supplies for Church, Hall & Office, Postage, Regular Maintenance, Charity, Eparchial Appeal, Insurance **\$44,611.93**
- Total Ordinary Expenses: \$44,611.93**
- ◆ **Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: \$3,629.48**

Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses: The Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal has increased from \$2,125 to \$2,670 a month starting January 2024.

The Cathedral's Building Insurance increased 14.3% in 2023, 7% in 2024 and 9% in 2025. We are now paying \$53,716 which will amount to \$4,476.33 a month.

Thank you for your contribution in helping maintain the Church and in planning different activities



Darb Mar Charbel is a unique 130-kilometer long-distance pilgrimage-hiking trail project, developed by the Darbessama Association and implemented on the ground by the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association according to international standards and the best practices of world-class pilgrimage trails.

The journey starts at the Monastery of Mar Antonios Qozhaya in the Qadisha Valley and concludes at the Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine, Harissa. The path leads the pilgrim/hiker through Saint Charbel's many stages of earthly life and dwelling locations: birth, spiritual awakening, novitiate, ordination and his cenobitic and eremitic life.

The "Darb" is a source of spiritual enrichment, cultural discovery, physical challenge, and an instrument of sustainable development for the trail's 40+ bordering towns and villages.

The groundwork began in May 2024 and inauguration is expected in May 2026.

Please make your donation [here](#).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Bake Sale Sponsored by the Confraternity

The Annual Winter Bake Sale sponsored by the Confraternity will take place on December 6th & 7th. If you would like to help by baking goods or donating to the bake sale, please see Yolla Howayek, Mirna Abi Daher or Hala Maalouf. The Confraternity will be having their Christmas Raffle. The drawing will be on December 25th, after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Season of the Birth of the Lord Retreat

Sponsored by the Confraternity, the Cathedral will hold the Season of the Birth of the Lord Retreat on December 13th, starting at 9 am. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Novena December 15th to 23rd

Starting on December 15th until December 23rd, the parish will pray the Christmas Novena every evening at 7:30 pm except Sunday. The tradition of praying nine days before Christmas is a great way to be prepared to welcome God among us.

Family Christmas Party

Sponsored by the Sunday School, the Cathedral invites all parishioners to a luncheon to celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 14th, in the Church Hall. Families are welcome, especially the kids, for a fun afternoon with Santa and other surprises. During the 11:30 Liturgy that day, the children will enact the Christmas story.

75th Year Anniversary of the Bible Society

Under the patronage of His Eminence, Bishop Gregory Mansour, you are invited to a special private dinner to celebrate the 75th diamond anniversary of the formal registration of the Bible Society, Lebanon. The dinner will be held on December 11, 2025, at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral at 7pm, and will include an update on the Society's distribution of 100,000 Special Edition New Testaments to celebrate Pope Leo's visit to Lebanon. Please email the Church if you are coming.

Fr. Chuck and Marie VanHeusen Farewell and Gratitude Luncheon

The Cathedral will hold a farewell luncheon of gratitude for Fr. Chuck and Marie VanHeusen on Sunday, December 28th after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy. All are welcome to thank Fr. Chuck and Marie for their 3 year ministry at the Cathedral. Fr. Chuck has been assigned to serve St. Joseph Maronite Church in Olean, NY and will be departing with his wife Marie in early January.

St. Maron Gala

Please save the date for the 99th St. Maron Gala at El Caribe (5945 Strickland Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11234) on Saturday, February 7th.

Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation as an automatic payment. You may also make your contribution online by clicking [here](#). It was determined that a minimum of \$150.00 per household a month will help meet the Church's budget.

Christmas Flower Donations

Mrs. Phyllis Simon

In Memory of the Simon & Raphael Families

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In Memory of John & Helen Shakal

Mr. & Mrs. Samer Estanbouli

In Memory of Youhanna (Jean) & Isabelle Aouad & Hani Estanbouli
& Nadia Helou Aouad

Michael Chawki

For the Well-being of the Family of Michael & Hweida Chawki

Mrs. Marian Ciaccia

In Memory of the Dahadi & Ciaccia Families

Joe & Lorraine Padalino

In Memory of Linda & Najib Akel

Mr. & Mrs. Emile Ayli

In Memory of Elias & Salimeh Ayli & Norma, Lambert & Vera Yueh



Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral has been designated as a holy site for the 2025 Jubilee Year. Catholics who visit the Cathedral with a sincere heart free from attachment to sin, and who fulfill the following conditions, can obtain a plenary indulgence:

1. Receive Holy Communion.
2. Participate in the Sacrament of Penance (Confession).
3. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

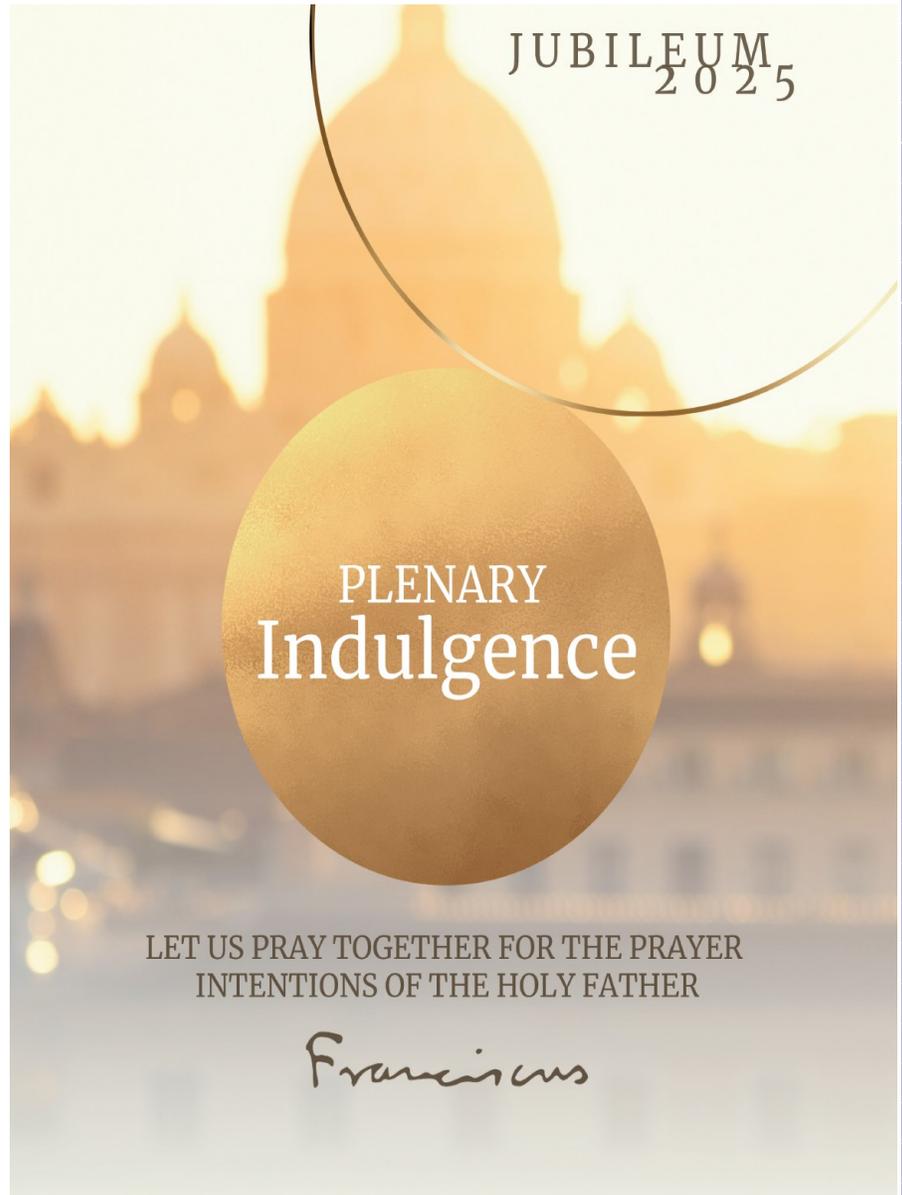
A plenary indulgence grants the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin, restoring the soul to the purity it had at baptism.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



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Christmas TRADITIONS

DECEMBER 9 8 PM EST

Hosted by:
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Passcode: 865674
Zoom Link: <https://surl.li/ejqldx>



Guest Speaker
James Salamy



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Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

Sunday of the Birth of St John the Baptist

Letter to the Galatians 4:21-5:1

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Gospel according to Saint Luke 1:57-66.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

أحد مولد يوحنا

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية 4:21-5:1

يا إخوتي، فُولُوا لي، أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَكُونُوا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، أَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ الشَّرِيعَةَ؟ فَإِنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ ابْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ، وَوَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ.

أَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ فَقَدْ وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ فَبِقُوَّةِ الْوَعْدِ. وَفِي ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ: فَسَارَةُ وَهَاجِرُ تُمَثِّلَانِ عَهْدَيْنِ، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَلِ سَيْنَاءَ يَلِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَهُوَ هَاجِرٌ؛ لِأَنَّ هَاجِرَ هِيَ جَبَلُ سَيْنَاءَ الَّذِي فِي بِلَادِ الْعَرَبِ، وَتُؤَافِقُ أُورَشَلِيمَ الْحَالِيَّةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا.

أَمَّا أُورَشَلِيمُ الْعُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمَّنَا؛ لِأَنَّهَا مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَحِي، أَيَّتُهَا الْعَائِقُورُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ اِنْدَفِعِي بِالْتَرَنِيمِ وَاصْرُخِي، أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَحَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ الْمُنْتَزِجَةِ». «أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الْوَعْدِ مِثْلُ إِسْحَاقِ. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حِينَئِذٍ الْمَوْلُودُ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يَضْطَهُدُ الْمَوْلُودَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ، فَكَذَلِكَ الْآنَ أَيْضًا.

وَلَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ؟ «أَطْرُدِ الْجَارِيَةَ وَأَبْنَهَا، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْجَارِيَةِ لَا يَرِثُ مَعَ ابْنِ الْحُرَّةِ». «إِذَا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، لَسْنَا أَوْلَادَ جَارِيَةٍ، بَلْ أَوْلَادُ الْحُرَّةِ.

إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ حَرَّرَنَا لِنَبْقَى أَحْرَارًا. فَانْبُتُّوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخَضَعُونَ لِنِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1:57-66

تَمَّ زَمَانٌ إِلَىصَابَاتٍ لَتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا. وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرَحُوا مَعَهُ. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيُحْتَنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَّوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا. فَاجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوحَنَّا!» فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدٌ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْأَسْمِ.»

وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوحَنَّا!». فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فَمًّا فَزَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوْلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَتِ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ.

وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: «مَا عَسَى هَذَا الطِّفْلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟». «وَكَانَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ.»

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