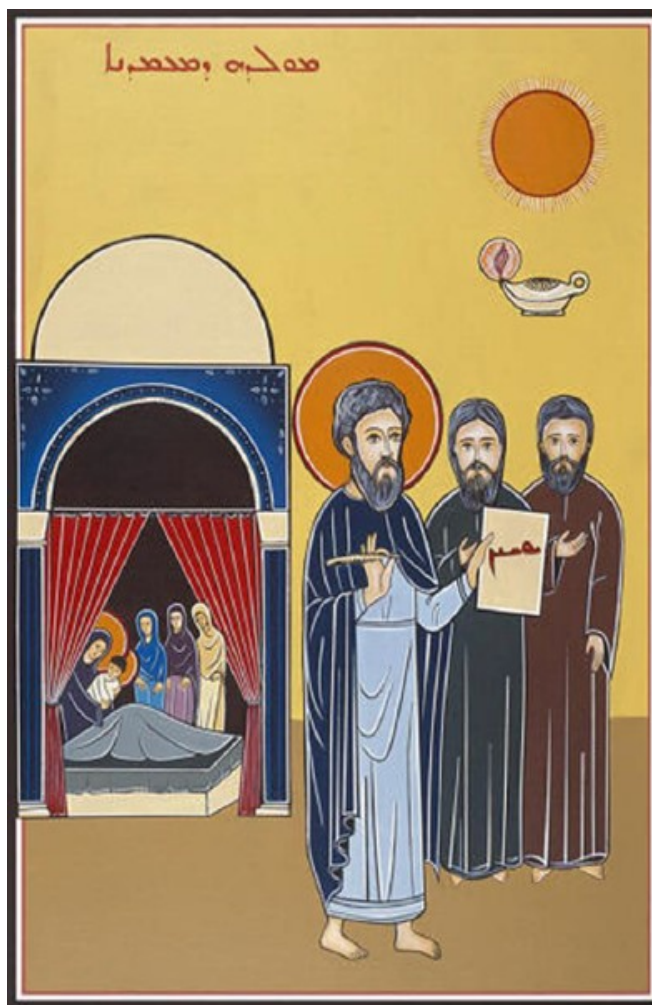


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Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral
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(718) 624-7228 | ololc.org | cathrectory@verizon.net
For emergency call: (202) 829-4779

The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop
The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector
Subdeacon Norbert Vogl
Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar



***Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist
December 4th, 2022***

Sun., December 4	Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist / St. Barbara 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11:30 am for Charles B. Baur	by Carol Flemming
Mon., December 5	NO LITURGY St. Saba the Hermit	
Tues., December 6	10 am Divine Liturgy for Claire Habib St. Nicholas (Zakhia)	by Mrs. Salma Vahdat
Wed., December 7	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Ambrose	
Thurs., December 8	10 am Divine Liturgy of the Immaculate Conception 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy of the Immaculate Conception	
Fri., December 9	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Francis of Paola	
Sat., December 10	10 am Divine Liturgy Pope St. Miltiades	
Sun., December 11	Sunday of the Revelation to Joseph / St. Daniel the Stylite 9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners 11:30 am for the Intentions of the Children of the Cathedral	

October 2022 Financial Standing

Ordinary Income

- ◆ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$12,671.00**
 - ◆ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers **\$19,318.00**
- Total Ordinary Income: \$31,989.00**

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.... **\$21, 471.74**
- Total Ordinary Expenses: \$21, 471.74**

Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: \$10,517.26

Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses:

Cathedral monthly building insurance: \$3,484.00

Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal: \$2,125.00

The Library is no longer renting the hall. The space was vacated at the end of October 2020.

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

HELP LEBANON!



BY CHECK:

Make your donation to Lebanon by sending a check to the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn and in the memo designate your charity either to Caritas, Lebanon, Saint Vincent de Paul or The Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross.

ONLINE:

You may also donate online by clicking [here](#).

**FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HELP
THROUGH CARITAS LEBANON**

In coordination with Caritas Lebanon, a family in the United States is now able to sponsor a family in Lebanon. The sponsorship varies from \$50 to \$100 per month depending on the size and the need of the family.

Please click [here](#) to sponsor a family and for additional information.

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

This Sunday we are celebrating the birth of John the Baptist. The announcement by the Angel Gabriel to his father, Zechariah, was celebrated three weeks ago. This first fulfillment in this series of foretold events proved to Zechariah that God's promises are true.

Throughout the history of the plan of salvation when God chooses a person it is considered a blessing and demonstrates how special that person is in the eyes of the Almighty. Zechariah was righteous before God "living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord." And Mary was described as the "favored one" when the Angel Gabriel greeted her.

Nonetheless, being picked by God does not only have to do with how special and holy the person is or how privileged and blessed someone is to be called. When God chose Zechariah and Mary, he was setting them apart for an ultimate mission to advance his plan. God's selection is always connected to a definite mission: Zechariah to be the father of John the Baptist, the Forerunner, and Mary to be the mother of Jesus and the Mother of God. The mission entrusted to Zechariah and Mary, in human terms, cannot be accomplished. How can an old priest and his barren wife have a child and not just any child, but one who will prepare the way for the Savior? And how can a virgin conceive and bear a son who is the Son of God? It seemed that God was setting them up for failure by asking of them more than they could handle. Faced with God's election, Zechariah and Mary's responses were different. Zechariah doubted, but Mary trusted.

God's striking Zechariah with muteness was as much a part of the mission as anything else. It could also be that he was made mute to save him from the shame of explaining not believing in God's announcement. It was a mission of silence to reflect on God's awesome and ultimate mission to be revealed eventually in the birth of John. Mary, on the other hand, decided to expand her mission and hurry to serve her cousin to prepare herself for welcoming her own child Jesus into the world.

We, usually, react to God's ultimate illogical call, by doing small missions to train our minds and to bring our level of thinking up to God's enormous action in the world. It is a way to educate ourselves gradually on how to trust in God more and more. By the time of the birth of John, Zechariah must have come to terms with the way God does things: He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

My friends, election implies a mission that bears fruit with patient endurance. God's plan in the world will be fulfilled with or without our cooperation, but don't we want to take part in sharing in his accomplishment? Yes. Of course we do.

Abgona Dominguez

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knights Meeting

The Knights will have a meeting on December 4th after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy.

Annual Bake Sale Sponsored by the Confraternity

The Annual Winter Bake Sale sponsored by the Confraternity will take place on December 3rd & 4th. If you would like to help by baking goods or donating to the bake sale, please see one of the members of the Confraternity.

Knights Christmas Party

The Knights Confraternity will hold their Christmas Party on Friday, December 9th, at Le Sajj. More details to follow.

Family Christmas Party

The Cathedral invites all parishioners to a luncheon to celebrate Christmas on December 11th 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 of the Sunday School will enact the Christmas story.

Family Rosary

Join the Eparchy to pray the Rosary as a family "To Build a Culture of Life & To Overcome Evil in the World" on December 12th at 8 pm. Please use the following zoom link [here](#). ID: 869 3039 9981 Passcode: 962607

MYO Christmas Gathering

The MYO will have a Christmas gathering on December 17th at 6 pm. All are invited for a paint evening with Christmas Music and treats followed by the Christmas Novena.

Sloan Kettering Toy Drive

A Christmas Toy Drive for the children (newborn and up) of Sloan Kettering Cancer Center will be in effect until December 17th. All toys must be brand new and unwrapped, not used, no stuffed animals, no clothes. A big box has been placed in the Cathedral to the far right of the Altar for your convenience.

Christmas Novena December 15th to 23rd

Starting on Thursday, December 15th, until Friday, 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.

New Year's Gathering

A few families from the Cathedral will be gathering to celebrate New Year's Eve in the Church Hall. If you would like to join them, please see Mike Naber (917) 612-4004. \$80 for adults and \$50 for children 12 & under.

Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation as an automatic payment. This is the best way to keep supporting your spiritual home while on vacation or out of town. You may also make your contribution online by clicking [here](#). It was determined that a minimum of \$125.00 per household a month will help meet the Church's budget.

Bulletin Advertisements

Business owners, you may advertise your businesses in the Church bulletin that reaches over 600 households via email. For more information click [here](#) or call the rectory at 718-624-7228.

Christmas Flower Donations

Mrs. Salma Vahdat

Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Abi Dagher

Mrs. Phyllis Simon

Mr. Donald Shakal

Mr. & Mrs. Chehade Arnaout

Samer & Marie-Therese Estanbouli

Joe & Joy Nassif

Lorraine Padalino

Marie Schepis

John, Sonia, Michael & Jenna

In Memory of the Besheer & Azizi Families

For a Special Intention

In Memory of the Simon & Raphael Families

In Memory of John & Helen Shakal

In Memory of the Deceased of the Arnaout & Chouki Families

In Memory of Jean (Youhanna) & Isabelle Aouad

In Memory of Laurice, Bichara & Marie Nassif

In Memory of Najib & Linda Akel

In Memory of Violet & Michael Owen

In Memory of Youssef Abi-Habib.

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CHRISTMAS**



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To give joy to the children with cancer .**

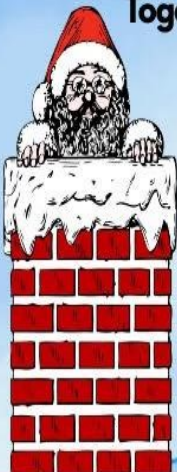
Please donate a new, unwrapped gift suitable for
a girl or a boy from
newborn to 18 years old.

Donations will benefit the
children of

Sloan Kettering Cancer Hospital



Together we can make a difference!



From: November 1 - December 17

MYO

CHRISTMAS TIME

PAINT Evening

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH US

WHEN December 17th 2022 at 6pm

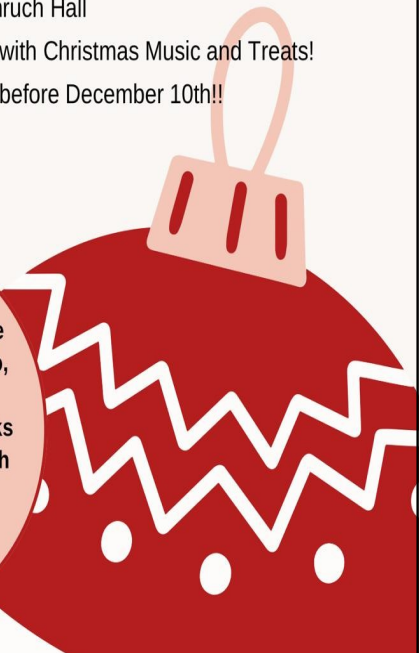
WHERE In the Chruch Hall

DESCRIPTION Painting with Christmas Music and Treats!

RSVP Anytime before December 10th!!

Join us!

We will be attending the Christmas Novena! Also, we will be providing yummy Christmas snacks and end the evening with a Christmas movie!



Sunday of the Birth of St John the Baptizer

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، قُولُوا 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، وَتُوَافِقُ أورشليمَ الْحَالِيَةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا.

أَمَّا أورشليمُ الْعُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمْنَا؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَحِي، أَيَّتُهَا الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ اِنْدَفِعِي بِالتَّرَنِيمِ وَ اصْرُخِي، أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ الْمُتَزَوِّجَةِ». «أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الْوَعْدِ مِثْلُ اسْحَقِ . وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حِينئِذٍ 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 لِئَنبَقِيَ أَحْرَارًا. فَاتَّبِعُوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخْضَعُونَ لِئِيبِرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1:57-66

تَمَّ زَمَانُ الْيَصَابَاتِ لِتِلْدِ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا. وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرَحُوا مَعَهُ . وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيُحْتَنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَّوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا . فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوْحَنَّا!» فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدَ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْأَسْمِ.»

وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا!». «فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فَجَاءَهُ فَمَّ زَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوْلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَ 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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