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Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Weekly Bulletin Sunday December 17, 2006 – Sunday December 24, 2006



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER
25 Christmas
31 New Year's Eve Party

Clergy
Rev. Father Jihad Younes
Deacon Martin Rachid
Subdeacon Earl Matte
Subdeacon Charles Rossie

Parish Staff
Pam Aziz – Parish Secretary
Darrell Frye – Maintenance
Pat Haley – Caterer

Parish Leaders
Lewis Walterhouse II– Parish Council
Dee Gardner – Choir Director
Dottie Byrnes – Organist
Freda Hearsch – Religious Education
Cindy Shaheen – Altar Society
Jeanette Walterhouse – Morningstar
Rob Kowalk – Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Liturgy Schedule

Monday	9a.m.
Tuesday	9a.m.
Wednesday	9a.m.
Thursday	9a.m.
Friday	12noon
Saturday	8:30a.m.
	5p.m.
Sunday	10a.m.
2 nd Sunday of the month	10a.m. (English)
	12noon (Arabic)

Adoration
Friday 11a.m.

Confessions
½ hour before liturgy on Saturday and Sunday and by appointment.



PARISH UPDATE

Please help us to update our parish records. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church or place it in the collection basket. Also if you know of any family members or friends as well as any local Maronites who are not attending please provide us with names and any other information you can. Thank You!

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: home: (____) _____ work: (____) _____ cell: (____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

Sacrament of Baptism, please contact the priest at least **1 month** before the intended date for the baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage, please contact the priest at least **6 months** before the intended date for the wedding.

Sick calls, please notify the Church office as soon as possible if you want communion for your sick. We usually do sick calls on Wednesdays.

Pray for our sick and homebound Parishioners:



Sarah Marshall
Mike Rizik
Hanneh Chammas
Eddie Rashid
Joe Faris
Doris Beck
Rose Johnson
Dorothy Mattar
Ferris Adado
Beth Garner



Sharon Griffiths
Osama Abou Shakra
Woody Mattar

Our Lady of Lebanon Office Hours

Monday 9am – 5pm
Tuesday 9am – 5pm
Wednesday 9am – 5pm
Thursday 9am – 5pm
Friday 9am – 5pm



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 17: Christmas Novena 6:30pm The Revelation to Joseph

10A.M.: (Eph 3:1-13; Mt 1:18-25) Reader: Clergy
- Rep. Mary Faris by Family
- Rep. Mark Grab by Pat & Vikki Haley

MONDAY 18: Daniel the Prophet and His Three Companions

- Rep. Bob Beck

TUESDAY 19:

- Rep. Mary Bernath by Yvonne Weissert

WEDNESDAY 20: St. Ignatius of Antioch

- Rep. Joe Nemer by Mike and Tyl Rizik

THURSDAY 21:

- Rep. Betty Mansour by Mon & Elsie
Shaheen

FRIDAY 22:

12NOON

- Rep. Mayford Penhaligon by Louise
Shaheen

SATURDAY 23:

8:30A.M.

- Special Intentions

5P.M.

- Rep. Dennis Penhaligon by Mayford

SUNDAY 24: Genealogy Sunday

10A.M.: (Rom 1:1-12; Mt 1:1-17) Reader: Clergy

- Rep. Tammy Bawardi
4th Anniversary by Naim Bawardi & Family

SUNDAY 31: Finding in the Temple

10A.M.: (Heb 7:11-19; Lk 2:41-52) Reader: Clergy

- Rep. Abraham & Albina Manssur by
Mayford
- Rep. Mary Maroun Bou Sauder by Maroun
Family

Weekly Contributions

November 19: \$2226
November 26: \$2551
December 3: \$3453
December 10: \$3419



Altar Servers Schedule for:

Sunday, December 17: Team 2
Sunday, December 24: Team 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will begin praying a Christmas Novena on Friday, December 15, 2006 at 6:30pm. The Christmas Novena will be prayed for nine days. Please try to make time to share in this beautiful devotion.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Theodore Beck who passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2006. May God's light shine upon him and may he rest in peace. Amen

Please don't forget about our food drive. As you know these baskets are for families who have children sick with cancer at Hurley. If you would like to contribute please put your food donations in the box in the Narthex and donations of money go to Deacon Marty.

The New Year's Eve Party will be held on Sunday, December 31, 2006 following 5:30pm Liturgy. Doors open at 6:30pm the cost is \$35 per person 13 years and older. Children 12 to 5 years \$10 and under 5 are free. Tickets are available from any Parish Council member or the church office.

Just a reminder to our parish as we near the end of 2006, if you have contribution envelopes that you are behind on please consider catching them up soon. Sometime around the middle of January the printing of yearly contribution statements will take place. If anyone has any questions please call the office.

All altar boys are to remember our meeting on Saturday 23 at 10 am to practice for Christmas Liturgy.

Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday 25th and 26th of December.

In preparation for Christmas, we are having an evening of prayer and meditation on Thursday December 21 at 7:00 P.M. Priests will be available for confession. Please consider coming to this evening to prepare a place in your heart for Jesus to be born.

True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement . . . "TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children!"



Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."



He then pulled from his bag an ORNAMENT of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."



He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him."



Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.



Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."



He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."



Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return."



Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD."

